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Bengal Legislative Assembly

Tenth Session, 1941

The 10th, 11th, 12th, 14th, 15th, 17th, and 18th
March, 1941

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GOVERNMENT OF BENGAL.

GOVERNOR OF BENGAL.

His Excellency SIR JOHN ARTHUR HERBERT, G.C.I.E.

MEMBERS OF THE COUNCIL OF MINISTERS.

(1) The Hon'ble Mr. ABUL KASEM FAZLUL HUQ, in charge of the Education Department.

(2) The Hon'ble Khwaja Sir NAZIMUDDIN, K.C.I.E., in charge of the Home Department.

(3) The Hon'ble Sir BIJOY PRASAD SINGH ROY, in charge of the Revenue Department.

(4) The Hon'ble Nawab Khwaja HABIBULLAH Bahadur, of Dacca, in charge of Public Health (including Medical) and Local Self-Government Departments.

(5) The Hon'ble Maharaja SRIS CHANDRA NANDY, of Cossimbazar, in charge of Communications and Works Department.

(6) The Hon'ble Mr. HUSEYAN SHAHEED SUHRAWARDY, in charge of Finance, Commerce and Labour Departments.

(7) The Hon'ble Nawab MUSHARRUFF HOSSAIN, Khan Bahadur, in charge of the Judicial and Legislative Departments.

(8) The Hon'ble Mr. PRASANNA DEB RAIKUT, in charge of the Forests and Excise Departments.

(9) The Hon'ble Mr. MUKUNDA BEHARY MULLICK, in charge of the Co-operative Credit and Rural Indebtedness Departments.

(10) The Hon'ble Mr. TAMIZUDDIN KHAN, in charge of Agriculture and Industries (including Veterinary) and Rural Reconstruction Departments.

GOVERNMENT OF BENGAL.

PRINCIPAL OFFICERS OF THE BENGAL LEGISLATIVE ASSEMBLY.

SPEAKER.

The Hon'ble Sir MUHAMMAD AZIZUL HAQUE, C.I.E., Khan Bahadur.

DEPUTY SPEAKER.

M. ASHRAFALI, Esq., Barrister-at-law.

SECRETARY.

K. ALI AFZAL, Esq., Barrister-at-law.

FIRST ASSISTANT SECRETARY.

Rai N. N. SEN GUPTA Bahadur.

SECOND ASSISTANT SECRETARY.

Khan Sahib QUAZI MUHAMMAD SADRUL OLA.

REGISTRAR.

A. B. CHATARJI, Esq

THE BENGAL LEGISLATIVE ASSEMBLY PROCEEDINGS

(Official Report of the Tenth Session.)

Volume LIX No. 3.

Proceedings of the Bengal Legislative Assembly assembled under the provisions of the Government of India Act, 1935.

THE ASSEMBLY met in the Assembly House, Calcutta, on Monday, the 10th March, 1941, at 4-45 p.m.

Present:

Mr. Speaker (the Hon'ble Sir MUHAMMAD AZIZUL HAQUE, C.I.E., Khan Bahadur) in the Chair, 9 Hon'ble Ministers and 190 members.

STARRED QUESTIONS

(to which oral answers were given)

Prisoner Tarapada Gupta of Berhampore.

***131. Mr. SASANKA SEKHAR SANYAL:** (*a*) Will the Hon'ble Minister in charge of the Home Department be pleased to state whether Srijut Tarapada Gupta, a municipal commissioner of Berhampore, is at present a prisoner at Dum Dum Jail?

(*b*) If so, will the Hon'ble Minister be pleased to state the nature of his conviction and sentence?

(*c*) Is it a fact that he has been suffering from physical ailments?

(*d*) If so, will the Hon'ble Minister be pleased to state—

(*i*) the nature of those ailments;

(*ii*) the present condition of his health; and

(*iii*) the steps taken for his medical treatment?

The Hon'ble Sir BIJOY PRASAD SINGH ROY (on behalf of the Hon'ble Khwaja Sir Nazimuddin, Minister in charge of the Home Department): (*a*) Yes.

(*b*) He has been convicted under rule 39 of the Defence of India Rules and sentenced to rigorous imprisonment for 4 months and to a fine of Rs.50, in default rigorous imprisonment for one month more.

(*c*) Yes.

(*d*) (*i*) Inflammation of the right buttock and thigh.

(*ii*) His temperature has subsided and the condition of the swelling is better.

(*iii*) He has been admitted into hospital on the 17th January, 1941, and is receiving the appropriate medical treatment.

Mr. SASANKA SEKHAR SANYAL: With reference to answer (*d*) (*ii*), will the Hon'ble Minister be pleased to state whether the subsidence of the temperature, as referred to there, is below the fever level or above the fever level?

The Hon'ble Sir BIJOY PRASAD SINGH ROY: I ask for notice.

Mr. SASANKA SEKHAR SANYAL: Will the Hon'ble Minister be pleased to state into which hospital he has been admitted?

The Hon'ble Sir BIJOY PRASAD SINGH ROY: Into the Berhampur Hospital.

Mr. SASANKA SEKHAR SANYAL: He was in the Dum-Dum Jail?

The Hon'ble Sir BIJOY PRASAD SINGH ROY: Just a minute, Sir.

Mr. SASANKA SEKHAR SANYAL: In view of that answer, may I suggest that the question be held over till to-morrow so that the Hon'ble Minister may come prepared with the full facts——

Mr. SPEAKER: Let us see if he can find the answer now.

The Hon'ble Sir BIJOY PRASAD SINGH ROY: I ask for notice.

Mr. SASANKA SEKHAR SANYAL: With reference to answer (*d*) (*i*), will the Hon'ble Minister be pleased to state what has been the diagnosis of the medical experts?

The Hon'ble Sir BIJOY PRASAD SINGH ROY: I ask for notice.

Text-books for primary schools.

***132. Maulvi ABDUL WAHED:** (*a*) Is the Hon'ble Minister in charge of the Education Department aware that some District School Boards have prescribed text-books selected from the list approved by the Text-Book Committee for the use of primary schools in their respective areas?

(*b*) If the answer to (*a*) is in the affirmative, will the Hon'ble Minister be pleased to state whether there is any bar to selection of text-books by District Teachers' Associations for their aided and unaided schools?

MINISTER in charge of the EDUCATION DEPARTMENT (the Hon'ble A. K. Fazlul Huq): (*a*) Yes.

(*b*) District Boards and District School Boards have been allowed to choose books from the Director of Public Instruction's list of text-books for use in primary schools and maktabs under their control. Teachers of these schools are not allowed to follow any lists other than those issued by these Boards.

Realisation of primary final examination fees.

***133. Mr. KHAGENDRA NATH DAS GUPTA:** (*a*) Will the Hon'ble Minister in charge of the Education Department be pleased to state whether primary final examination fees were realised from the candidates appearing in districts where free primary education has been introduced?

(*b*) Is the Hon'ble Minister considering the desirability of total abolition of the system of realisation of final examination fees for an education that is imparted free and for which education cess has been imposed?

(*c*) Is the Hon'ble Minister considering the desirability of vesting the control of the primary final examination in a Divisional Committee composed of the representatives of the respective District School Boards where such Boards have been established and of the District Boards where School Boards do not exist?

The Hon'ble Mr. A. K. FAZLUL HUQ: (*a*) Yes

(*b*) and (*c*) I will have the matter examined.

Long staple cotton and demonstration farms at Tippera.

*134. **Mr. DHIRENDRA NATH DUTTA:** (*a*) Is the Hon'ble Minister in charge of the Agriculture and Industries Department aware that the growth of long staple cotton is a crying necessity for the Province of Bengal?

(*b*) If so, will the Hon'ble Minister be pleased to lay on the table a statement showing—

(*i*) how many demonstration farms for experiment as to the growth of such cotton have been opened and exist at present;

(*ii*) where are they located;

(*iii*) what is the acreage in each such farm;

(*iv*) what is the result derived from such farm; and

(*v*) what is the expenditure incurred for such farms?

(*c*) Is the Hon'ble Minister aware that short staple cotton grows in the Tripura State?

(*d*) If so, is the Hon'ble Minister considering the desirability of ascertaining through experts whether there is a possibility of growing long staple cotton in areas in the British Tippera close to the said Tripura State?

(*e*) If so, is the Hon'ble Minister considering the desirability of starting demonstration farms in such areas in the district of Tippera?

(*f*) Is it in the contemplation of Government to open such experimental farms in the gardens of the jails in the Province of Bengal?

MINISTER in charge of the AGRICULTURE and INDUSTRIES DEPARTMENT (the Hon'ble Mr. Tamizuddin Khan): (*a*) and (*c*) Yes.

(*b*) (*i*) Six in six districts.

(*ii*) Bankura, Midnapore, Nadia, Murshidabad, Rangpur and Mymensingh.

(*iii*) About 50 bighas in each centre.

(*iv*) It has been found as a result of the experiments carried on, in the farms, that centres in Western Bengal are more suitable for growing of long staple cotton than centres in other parts of the Province.

(*v*) Approximately Rs.10 per bigha per season.

(*d*) and (*e*) One long staple cotton centre was tried at Mainamati in Tripura State in 1938-39 but the experiments carried on there, were not very successful owing to wilt disease. Attempt will be made again in the Tippera district.

(*f*) A ır as I know, the jail gardens are not meant for experiment.

Mr. SHAHEDALI: Will the Hon'ble Minister be pleased to state whether any experiment will be made in the district of Tippera during the year 1941-42?

The Hon'ble Mr. TAMIZUDDIN KHAN: I think it will be possible to do so.

Mr. KHAGENDRA NATH DAS GUPTA: With reference to answer (*b*) (*iv*), will the Hon'ble Minister be pleased to state whether any experiment has been carried out in the district of Jalpaiguri?

The Hon'ble Mr. TAMIZUDDIN KHAN: I have already given the names of districts, and Jalpaiguri is not in that list.

Feni Central Bank in Noakhali district.

***135. Maulvi ABDUR RAZZAQ:** (*a*) Will the Hon'ble Minister in charge of the Co-operative Credit and Rural Indebtedness Department be pleased to lay on the table a statement showing for the last four years—

(*i*) the income on cash basis; and

(*ii*) the expenditure of the Feni Central Bank in Noakhali district?

(*b*) Is it a fact that Rs.41,000 have been spent from the principal amounts?

MINISTER in charge of the CO-OPERATIVE CREDIT and RURAL INDEBTEDNESS DEPARTMENT (the Hon'ble Mr. Mukunda Behary Mullick): (*a*) As it refers to the internal affairs of the bank, over which Government have hardly any control, I regret the information asked for is not available.

(*b*) Does not arise.

Mr. SYED JALALUDDIN HASHEMY: Are we to understand that Government have no control over the internal affairs of any Central Co-operative Bank?

The Hon'ble Mr. MUKUNDA BEHARY MULLICK: I would refer the honourable member to answer (*a*).

Mr. SYED JALALUDDIN HASHEMY: I have seen the answer (*a*). I want a specific answer from the Hon'ble Minister as to whether Government have any control whatsoever over the activities of Central Co-operative Banks or not?

The Hon'ble Mr. MUKUNDA BEHARY MULLICK: I will refer the honourable member to the provisions of section 17 of the Co-operative Societies Act under which we are responsible for audit.

Measures to prevent alienation of lands from the hands of the agriculturists.

***136. Mr. MIRZA ABDUL HAFIZ:** (*a*) Is the Hon'ble Minister in charge of the Revenue Department aware that on account of passing of a considerable part of the cultivable lands from the hands of the agriculturists to those of the non-agriculturists in the Province—

(*i*) some millions of people have turned into landless day labourers; and

(*ii*) some of them have migrated to different places as also in Assam?

(*b*) If so, do the Government contemplate to safeguard the interests of the agriculturists by legislation?

MINISTER in charge of the REVENUE DEPARTMENT (the Hon'ble Sir Bijoy Prasad Singh Roy): (*a*) (*i*) No up-to-date statistics of landless labourers are available. Speaking generally any considerable increase in landless labourers must perhaps largely be ascribed to the increasing pressure of population on the land and the consequent increase of uneconomic holdings.

(*ii*) Government have no information.

(*b*) No such legislative measure is in contemplation of Government at present.

Mr. A. M. ABDUL HAMID: With reference to answer (*b*), will the Hon'ble Minister be pleased to state whether it is not a fact that during the budget discussion of 1939, he assured me on the floor of this House that a Land Alienation Bill was under the contemplation of the Government and that it would be introduced as early as possible?

The Hon'ble Sir BIJOY PRASAD SINGH ROY: The matter was thoroughly examined since then and Government are thoroughly convinced that there is no case for legislation. In fact, the transfer of lands from the hands of agriculturists to non-agriculturists is almost negligible.

Mr. SYED JALALUDDIN HASHEMY: Will the Hon'ble Minister agree with me if I say that on account of the passing of the Bengal Agricultural Debtors Act and the Money-lenders Act, the

money market has become shy and cultivators are not getting any loans and for that reason they are selling their holdings and lands to non-agriculturists only for their maintenance?

The Hon'ble Sir BIJOY PRASAD SINGH ROY: Not necessarily to non-agriculturists.

Maulvi MUHAMMAD ISRAIL: Will the Hon'ble Minister be pleased to state what is the percentage of land which has passed from agriculturists to non-agriculturists?

The Hon'ble Sir BIJOY PRASAD SINGH ROY: Speaking from memory, I may say that we enquired in about one lakh of acres and it was found to be only ·3 per cent.

Khan Bahadur Maulvi FAZLUL QUADIR: Will the Hon'ble Minister be pleased to state if Government keep any account of registration of documents showing the transfer of lands from agriculturists to agriculturists, non-agriculturists and others?

The Hon'ble Sir BIJOY PRASAD SINGH ROY: We do not keep any account, but as I just mentioned, we made a special enquiry in several districts and from that we drew certain inference. We covered quite a large area, and we found that only ·3 per cent. of the transfers was made to non-agriculturists.

Mental Hospital at Ranchi.

***137. Maulvi ABU HOSSAIN SARKAR:** (*a*) Will the Hon'ble Minister in charge of the Public Health and Local Self-Government Department be pleased to state—

(*i*) the amount of money this Government grants every year to the Mental Hospital at Ranchi; and

(*ii*) the number of patients at present residing there from Bengal?

(*b*) Are the Government aware of a widespread demand for a mental hospital exclusively for this Province?

MINISTER in charge of the PUBLIC HEALTH and LOCAL SELF-GOVERNMENT DEPARTMENT (the Hon'ble Nawab Khwaja Habibullah Bahadur of Dacca): (*a*) (*i*) the amount of contribution paid annually to the two mental hospitals at Ranchi, viz., the European Mental Hospital and the Indian

Mental Hospital is not a fixed sum. In the case of the European Hospital it is calculated on the number of patients from Bengal and the number of days spent by them in the hospital. In the case of the Indian Hospital the contribution represents three-fourths of the net expenditure of the hospital, three-fourths of the total accommodation for patients in the institution being reserved for patients from Bengal. The amounts actually paid to these two institutions for the last 3 years are shown below:—

	European.	Indian.
	Rs.	Rs.
1939-40	2,17,394	3,39,650
1938-39	1,91,871	3,28,097
1937-38	1,85,511	3,43,684

(*ii*) European Mental Hospital ..	171
Indian Mental Hospital	1,021

(*b*) I am aware that the accommodation for institutional treatment of mental patients in Bengal is not adequate.

Maulvi ABU HOSSAIN SARKAR: Will the Hon'ble Minister be pleased to state whether Government have any control over the management of the Mental Hospitals in Ranchi?

The Hon'ble Nawab Khwaja HABIBULLAH Bahadur, of Dacca: There is a managing committee on which there are representatives from Bengal.

Maulvi ABU HOSSAIN SARKAR: Will the Hon'ble Minister be pleased to state with reference to answer (*b*) whether there is a Mental Hospital at 34, Murari Pukur Road which has applied to Government for a licence with a view to equipping that hospital fully?

Mr. SPEAKER: For that you will have to table a separate question.

Mr. SYED JALALUDDIN HASHEMY: Will the Hon'ble Minister be pleased to state what is the distinction between a European Mental Hospital and an Indian Mental Hospital? Will the Hon'ble Minister kindly tell us what is meant by a European hospital—whether the word "European" includes Anglo-Indian, Goanese, Chinese, Japanese and others?

The Hon'ble Nawab Khwaja HABIBULLAH Bahadur, of Dacca: As far as I am aware, the European section of the hospital is clearly meant for the Europeans only.

Maulvi ABU HOSSAIN SARKAR: With reference to answer (*b*), will the Hon'ble Minister be pleased to state whether Government is contemplating for the development of one of the existing mental hospitals by giving it a licence?

The Hon'ble Nawab Khwaja HABIBULLAH Bahadur, of Dacca: At the present time, on account of economic depression, Government feels that this is the best possible arrangement. But as soon as the depression is over, Government will consider the question afresh.

Srijut NARENDRA NATH DAS GUPTA: Will the Hon'ble Minister be pleased to explain the reason for the huge expenditure for the European Hospital when the number of European patients compared to Indian patients is so small?

Mr. SPEAKER: That question does not arise.

Workers in electrical workshops of Public Works Department.

***138. Mr. SIBNATH BANERJEE:** (*a*) Is the Hon'ble Minister in charge of the Communications and Works Department aware that the workers and mistries in the Electrical Workshop and in Electrical Circle of Public Works Department are not satisfied with their conditions of service?

(*b*) Will the Hon'ble Minister be pleased to state whether their service conditions have been enquired into?

(*c*) If the answer to (*b*) is in the affirmative, will the Hon'ble Minister be pleased to state what improvements have been made in their conditions?

(*d*) Will the Hon'ble Minister be pleased to state the number of workers that are still temporary after 10-15 years of service?

(*e*) Is it a fact that some of the workers have recently been asked to accept reduced wages on threat of discharge?

MINISTER in charge of the COMMUNICATIONS and WORKS DEPARTMENT (the Hon'ble Maharaja Srischandra Nandy, of Cossimbazar): (*a*) Yes.

(*b*) and (*c*) Yes, a departmental enquiry was made about the service conditions of the electrical workers and Government are considering the question of granting the benefit of Contributory Provident Fund to the temporary work charged employees who have been in continuous service over a certain period. The honourable member will appreciate

that this enquiry will necessarily take time, as this enquiry is being made in respect of temporary work charged employees in all the different establishments under this department.

(*d*) The work charged establishment is always temporary. In the Electrical Circle there are about 163 men of 10-15 years' employment.

(*e*) No.

Mr. ATUL KRISHNA GHOSE: With reference to reply (*d*), will the Hon'ble Minister be pleased to state the reason of not making these employees permanent even though they have rendered 10 to 15 years of service?

The Hon'ble Maharaja SRISCHANDRA NANDY, of Cossimbazar: The reason is that they belong to a charged establishment, *i.e.*, their pay is included in the total estimate of the work which is undertaken. If there is no work, they do not get any pay.

Mr. ATUL KRISHNA GHOSE: Are we to understand that in the course of one month these employees are employed for a few days only and for the rest of the days in the month they sit idle?

The Hon'ble Maharaja SRISCHANDRA NANDY, of Cossimbazar: That is unfortunately the position, but generally they get some work as soon as they finish one. As I have said, we are enquiring into the matter to give them the benefit of contributory provident fund.

Mr. NIHARENDU DUTTA MAZUMDAR: Will the Hon'ble Minister be pleased to state whether there has been any reduction in the wages of these employees?

The Hon'ble Maharaja SRISCHANDRA NANDY, of Cossimbazar: I ask for notice.

Mr. NIHARENDU DUTTA MAZUMDAR: With reference to answer (*e*), is it a fact that some of the workers have recently been asked to accept reduced wages on threat of discharge?

Mr. SPEAKER: That is not a new question.

Mr. NIHARENDU DUTTA MAZUMDAR: Has there been any reduction of wages in any section?

The Hon'ble Maharaja SRISCHANDRA NANDY, of Cossimbazar: I have already said, No.

Mr. NIHARENDU DUTTA MAZUMDAR: The answer "No" relates to forced acceptance of reduced wages. But my question is—Has there been any reduction of wages?

The Hon'ble Maharaja SRISCHANDRA NANDY, of Cossimbazar: I ask for notice.

Holding of meetings in Faridpur district.

***139. Mr. SURENDRA NATH BISWAS:** (*a*) Will the Hon'ble Minister in charge of the Home Department be pleased to state whether under section 56 of the Defence of India Rules the Provincial Government have by an order prohibited the holding of or taking part in meetings or assemblies in the district of Faridpur without the permission of the District Magistrate?

(*b*) If the answer to (*a*) is in the affirmative, will the Hon'ble Minister be pleased to state whether all meetings or assemblies, emergent or otherwise, of all religious, social, educational and lawful political associations in the district have been so prohibited?

(*c*) If so, will the Hon'ble Minister be pleased to state whether the Government have considered the desirability of excluding from the operation of such order the meetings or assemblies held or gathered for the purpose of conducting normal business or function of a religious, social, educational and lawful political association?

(*d*) If the answer to (*c*) is in the negative, will the Hon'ble Minister be pleased to state whether the Government are considering the desirability of modifying that order by making the holding of or taking part in meetings or assemblies subject to previous intimation to the District Magistrate or the local Subdivisional or thana officer and not subject to the previous permission of the District Magistrate?

The Hon'ble Mr. A. K. FAZLUL HUQ: (*a*) Government have issued no such special order relating to the district of Faridpur to which however the general orders applicable throughout the Province apply. These are notifications Nos. 912P.D., dated the 19th October, 1940, and 1384P., dated the 4th March, 1941, of which copies are placed on the Library table.

(*b*) to (*d*) The honourable member is referred to the terms of the orders themselves.

Mr. SURENDRA NATH BISWAS: Will the Hon'ble Minister be pleased to state whether it is a fact that it is the desire of Government that a District Magistrate or Subdivisional Officer should prohibit meetings to be held for the purpose of conducting normal business or religious or social or educational activities?

The Hon'ble Mr. A. K. FAZLUL HUQ: It is not the desire of Government to restrict public life in any way, but in these matters a good deal has got to be left to the individual discretion of the officers on the spot to decide.

Mr. SURENDRA NATH BISWAS: Will the Hon'ble Minister be pleased to state whether it is a fact that in the district of Faridpur no exemption has been made with regard to any kind of meeting as indicated in that order?

The Hon'ble Mr. A. K. FAZLUL HUQ: Under paragraph 2 of circular No. 912 P. D., dated the 19th of October, 1940, the local officers have got certain discretion.

Mr. SURENDRA NATH BISWAS: Will the Hon'ble Minister be pleased to state whether Government have considered the desirability of issuing instructions to the District Magistrate or Subdivisional Officer to exempt from the operation of this notification such innocent meetings as have been referred to in question (*c*)?

The Hon'ble Mr. A. K. FAZLUL HUQ: Sir, we have every reason to believe that the District Magistrate would not unnecessarily interfere with innocent public meetings. It is only when such a meeting may lead to discussion of subjects which may ultimately rouse consequences which may be objectionable that he will intervene. One ought to have this confidence in the District Magistrates.

Mr. SPEAKER: The next question.

Mr. SURENDRA NATH BISWAS: Sir, in view of the importance of this question, may I have your permission to put another supplementary question?

Mr. SPEAKER: What is your question?

Mr. SURENDRA NATH BISWAS: My question is whether the attention of the Hon'ble Minister has been drawn to my question (*d*) and whether Government consider that the mere serving of the notice of the intention to hold a meeting to the District Magistrate will satisfy the intention of Government.

Mr. SPEAKER: That has been answered.

Mr. SURENDRA NATH BISWAS: The Hon'ble Minister has referred only to the order. We have already heard the Hon'ble Minister to say that he is aware that the District Magistrate has exempted meeting from the operations under clause 5 of the notification which the District Magistrate had the power to do. But I am aware, Sir, that every meeting is banned and that no meeting has been exempted.

Mr. SPEAKER: That question does not arise.

UNSTARRED QUESTION

(answer to which was laid on the table)

Typists and copyists under the District Judges of the Province.

51. Mr. ABDUL WAHAB KHAN: (*a*) Will the Hon'ble Minister in charge of the Judicial Department be pleased to lay on the table a statement showing, district by district,—

(*i*) the present number of—

(1) typists, and

(2) copyists

under the District Judges in Bengal; and

(*ii*) the number of them that are Muslims?

(*b*) Is the Hon'ble Minister aware that the Bengal Service Recruitment (Communal Ratio) Rules, 1940, is not applicable to the copyists and typists remunerated by fees?

(*c*) If so, is the Hon'ble Minister considering the desirability of including the typists and copyists remunerated by fees, in the communal ratio rules?

MINISTER in charge of the JUDICIAL DEPARTMENT (the Hon'ble Nawab Musharruff Hossain, Khan Bahadur): (*a*) A statement is laid on the table.

(*b*) and (*c*) Yes.

Statement referred to in the reply to clause (a) of unstarred question No. 51, showing the number of typists and copyists of each district for 1939-40.

Districts.	Typists.			Copyists.		
	Muslims.	Non-Muslims.	Total.	Muslims.	Non-Muslims.	Total.
Rangpur ..	1	8	9	1	9	10
Chittagong ..	2	6	8	4	12	16
*Murshidabad ..	3	7	10	..	..	..
Howrah ..	..	7	7	..	7	7
*24-Parganas ..	3	19	22	..	..	..
Burdwan ..	..	9	9	3	7	10
Noakhali ..	2	7	9	6	8	14
Dacca ..	7	13	20	4	13	17
*Dinajpur ..	2	9	11	..	..	..
*Jalpaiguri ..	1	3	4	..	..	..
*Darjeeling ..	..	6	6	..	..	..
Faridpur ..	5	5	10	6	12	18
Hooghly ..	1	6	7	1	9	10
Tippera ..	2	11	13	7	13	20
*Mymensingh ..	14	29	43	..	..	..
Birbhum ..	1	4	5	4	8	12
Khulna ..	1	3	4	2	9	11
Rajshahi-Malda	6	..	6	4	8	12
Midnapore ..	2	10	12	3	9	12
Nadia ..	1	5	6	..	5	5
Bakarganj ..	..	9	9	7	10	17
Pabna ..	2	3	5	3	5	8
Bogra ..	1	1	2	5	3	8
Bankura ..	..	3	3	1	9	10
Jessore ..	..	8	8	2	4	6

*The figures include both typists and copyists as separate figures in respect of those districts are not available.

Adjournment Motion.

Mr. SYED JALALUDDIN HASHEMY: May I submit, Sir, that so far as my adjournment motion is concerned, if your order is suspended till to-morrow, I shall be able to give you more facts and you might reconsider your decision.

Mr. SPEAKER: I have already refused consent. If you can give more facts, I shall certainly consider.

Mr. SYED JALALUDDIN HASHEMY: All right, Sir.

Message.

The Secretary then read out the following message received from the Bengal Legislative Council:—

"That the concurrence of the Bengal Legislative Assembly be asked to the Bengal Land Revenue Sales (Amendment) Bill, 1940, as passed by the Bengal Legislative Council at its meeting held on the 28th February, 1941."

Point of Privilege.

Srijut NARENDRA NATH DAS GUPTA: On a point of privilege, Sir. I gave notice of a cut motion under the head——

Mr. SPEAKER: That is not a point of privilege——

Mr. NISHITHA NATH KUNDU: Sir, he is trying to make out his point of privilege—

Mr. SPEAKER: Mr. Kundu, when I am on my legs, you cannot obstruct the proceedings of the House in this way.

If it is a matter relating to a cut motion, it is not a question of privilege at all. It is a question of administration of the rules by the Speaker. If the Speaker fails to do so, then again a question of privilege does not come in, but it comes in through a no-confidence motion against the Speaker. If you have got anything to say, you can discuss it with me in my chamber or with my Secretary. If you find that relief is not forthcoming, then only the question does arise.

Srijut NARENDRA NATH DAS GUPTA: Sir, I want to make my position clear——

Mr. SPEAKER: What is your point of privilege?

Srijut NARENDRA NATH DAS GUPTA: Sir, my point of privilege is this: as a member I am entitled to have my cut motion placed before the Legislature and have it discussed. The cut motion has been admitted by a circular, but in the final list I find that my name does not appear. It has been left out. I want to know what is the reason.

Mr. SPEAKER: You can write to the office about it. I cannot answer it here.

Srijut NARENDRA NATH DAS GUPTA: Sir, in the final list it does not appear. I want to know——

Mr. SPEAKER: Order, order. I am not prepared to give any information on the floor of the House as to what has been done and what has not been done in the office. If you have got anything to say, you can see me in my chamber.

Holiday on account of lunar eclipse.

Mr. SASANKA SEKHAR SANYAL: Sir, may we know what has been your final considered decision with regard to the desire of this section of the House that the 14th March should be observed as holiday on account of the lunar eclipse?

Mr. SPEAKER: I have just communicated to the Government Whip and I will enquire.

Supplementary Demand.

The Hon'ble Mr. A. K. FAZLUL HUQ: Sir, on the recommendation of His Excellency the Governor, I beg to present a demand of Re. 1 for supplementary grant under the head "57—Miscellaneous."

DEMAND FOR GRANT.

25—General Administration—General Administration.

The Hon'ble Mr. A. K. FAZLUL HUQ: Sir, on the recommendation of His Excellency the Governor, I beg to move that a sum of Rs. 1,27,00,000 be granted for expenditure under the head "25—General Administration.'

Mr. SASANKA SEKHAR SANYAL: Sir, I beg to move that the demand of Rs. 1,27,00,000 for expenditure under the head "25—General Administration" be reduced by Rs. 100.

Sir, through this humble motion of mine, I only seek to make a retrospect of the four years of Provincial Autonomy that have rolled over the head of the province, and I assure you, Sir, that it is not in a spirit of cavil and acrimony that I seek to approach the question. In the course of a few months from to-day the province will be entering into a new phase of autonomy and, Sir, it would be both useful and instructive to take stock of what legacy we are going to hand over to our successors.

Sir, the measure of success that Government seeks to attain lies in its eagerness to enlarge and expand the span of freedom of its numerous subjects, in its willingness to ensure and enlarge peace and harmony amongst its various communities, in its capacity to raise the standard of living of the teeming millions that it represents. And judged by anyone of these standards, Sir, I confess I have not been able to say that the records of the present Government have been either proud or encouraging.

Let me examine these aspects one by one. I come to the question of freedom first. Sir, when the present Ministry was formed, some fond hopes were raised in spite of the inclusion in the Cabinet of persons, some of whom have been well known for their reactionary die-hard credentials in the past and some of whom—without meaning any offence to them—are colourless persons incapable of popular sympathy. Hopes were raised, Sir, that the Government nourished by the support and patronage of people's elected representatives would at least depart from the bureaucratic idealogy of gagging public opinion and suppressing popular demands. With this belief and very legitimate and reasonable belief, the political organisations in the province were encouraged into a quick overhauling, and in the hope that it may accommodate an increasing consciousness of the people at large. People began to formulate their needs and requirements, so that they might reflect them on the structure of the Government. But the response from the side of Government has been quite disheartening. The mailed fist of the bureaucracy that lay temporarily hidden beneath the velvety gloves came out in its nakedness and began to deal blow after blow upon the critics of the Ministry all the province over. The authorities everywhere declared war against all movements that tried to grow on concrete demands and civil liberties began to be trampled in a measure that might even put the foreigners to shame. The Defence of India Act and the Rules came as a handy weapon and in the name of war purposes all public activities were sought to be liquidated in a ruthless manner. The peasants and the labourers cannot meet to-day even to discuss their domestic misery and the self-less patriots whose only fault

lies in the fact that they tried to organise and mobilise public opinion and to guide popular demands have been either clapped in jails or have been otherwise so severely restricted as to turn out veritable helots. The press—the well-known oracle of public mind—has been maimed and muzzled and even, Sir, members of the Legislature cannot come in contact with those whom they represent, and it seems that the Government of the day is flourishing upon a sanction other than the will of the electors.

Coming, Sir, to the question of peace, it takes one's breath away to think of this vital proposition. An unprecedented toxin of communalism has put the entire province into a state of wild delirium and the passionate crusade of hatred against harmony has released disruptive forces which even the authors, however powerful they may be, cannot now control. Sir, in spite of admitted social and religious differences the great communities have lived together and participated in their common joys and sorrows. It was expected that with the growth of civic and political consciousness the differences would be welded by the inevitable process of galvanization that political consciousness gives. But that was not to be. New sectional conflicts have been invented where there was none and old and decaying ones like the music before the mosque have been fanned into new dimensions and invidious sectional and communal discriminations seem to have been the key to the whole policy of the Government of Bengal ranging from the farthest village unions right up to the Dalhousie Square. Units are divided and constituencies in local bodies—the elective bodies—are delimited in such a way as to convert natural majorities into artificial minorities in utter disregard of the normal and known principles of population and territorial contiguity and in matters of nomination, excursionist is preferred to an honest and useful man on the narrowest ground of communal-cum-ministerial exigency. In the services efficiency and integrity are fast giving place to dishonest and unscrupulous careerism. In education the hands of the clock are being definitely put back and the culture of Bengal—the proud culture of Hindus and Muslims alike—is being pushed back to walls of the middle ages. The normal religious rights which also incidentally involve fundamental civil rights of one community are being sacrificed at the altar of petty communalism of another. In all spheres of public activity, refinement and sweet reasonableness are being evicted by passion and hatred and brothers in poverty are being engaged in constant fratricidal warfares which do them no good. As a dangerous consequence of this—and this is very important and I wish my friends of the Coalition Party to mark—as a dangerous consequence of this, persons and people who have been nursed in the highest traditions of nationalism are being driven to communal ditches for bare existence. The rank and file of each community who ought to have combined into a class unto themselves are being placed at the mercy of reactionary leadership of the richer section of that community.

That is to say, the vested interests which we are all out to destroy are tightening their grip over the rising mass forces, that is to say, the wheel of advance which we thought had rolled has gone definitely out of gear.

Then, Sir, coming to the question of prosperity, in the economic sphere our disillusionment has been all the greater. This Government started with the best financial assets and if only they had a little imagination and some planning, the vast surplus and the still vaster annual jute bounty from the Centre would have been capitalised and the province would have been put definitely on the track of some prosperity in the distant future at least, if not in the near future. Instead of capitalising these resources, the vast resources of the province are being constantly frittered away over increasingly top-heavy administration and to-day, Sir, the province has been landed on the verge of economic and financial breakdown. Agriculture is as unremunerative to-day as it was before. Industry is receding to the cold shade of neglect. The dead and dying rivers are to-day no better than they were four years before and the irrigation problems have been disregarded, admittedly in the words of the Hon'ble Finance Minister, to a scandal. No attempts have been made to increase the paying and buying capacity of the village people who still wallow in destitution and misery. The career of flood and famine is still as unchecked and unbridled as before. Nation-building activities have become a mere by-word and to-day they are no more than mere political oaths to be sworn by. The golden fibre of jute has not been turned to any use and no crop has been converted into a money crop. The considered reports, the very valuable reports of the several *ad hoc* committees have not been put into operation. For example, the reports of the Jute Enquiry Committee, the Rice and Paddy Enquiry Committee, the Chaukidari Enquiry Committee, born of the accumulated wisdom of the different sections of the House, have been put into the archives and are not going to be put into operation. Even, Sir, the several legislative measures that have been achieved and adopted by this House are not without their dark shades. The Bengal Tenancy Act has certainly made some advance, I should even concede, a rapid advance, but then the moot question of the peasantry remains still unsettled. The question of the reduction of rent which was the most burning and vital question at the last election and by which of all persons the Hon'ble Chief Minister stood strongly, has been shelved in the archives of the Floud Commission's report over which again we understand a Special Committee's report is pending. Sir, it is our considered opinion that the question of the reduction of rent could have been and should have been settled independently and irrespective of any other question, and it is the most ignominious failure of this House that it has not been so done. Sir, the Money-lenders Act has certainly given some relief to the debtors, but the Government have not implemented this measure by the introduction

of facilities for cheap rural credit and, what is more, by discriminatory measures in favour of the scheduled banks, it has encouraged the flight of capital from the rural areas to Calcutta. That is to say, the masses of the Bengal villages are thrown in a veritable financial deadlock. The co-operative measures which have been passed by this House only recently have failed to inspire confidence in the money market, and I am sure neither has there been any sound deposit nor will there be any on account of the invidious principles which have been the guiding factor of these co-operative measures. These and many other things are the people's lot. In short, the stamp of poverty which is the stamp of Hindus and Muslims alike, is as burning to-day as it was before, and the new taxation measures are coming as the last straw on the camel's back. So, here we stand with four years of provincial autonomy to our credit, and I will not blame anybody. To-day I am not in a mood to raise any acrimonious debate, as I have said. I will even go further and say I will take my share in this colossal disaster and monumental failure of four years for if the Government have failed to introduce peace and prosperity, we have also failed to persuade the Government into a proper sense of realities. But here again there is yet time to retrace and rectify. Let us sit down even to-day in a spirit of comradeship and let us enlarge and restore the civil liberties that have been so ruthlessly curtailed. Let us send word to the farthest village that the welfare of one community must depend on the good-will and sympathy of another for hatred cannot create. I would appeal to the Hon'ble Mr. Fazlul Huq to try to remove that hatred which is in the minds of one community against another. Sir, let us sit down and let us in a spirit of organisation mould the future of our province. Let mosques and temples stand out as interesting museums of ancient and mediæval ages; let the *Maulanas* and *Mahantas* give their passport for the next world, if there be any; but in the meantime, Sir, let us in a spirit of determination forget our past and try to ring out the old of bondage and fight for a newer emancipation for this land, you, Sir, said the other day in connection with the Convocation, "India before us"—I would rather say, "Bengal before us."

Mr. SPEAKER: I think the members should have an idea at this stage of the debate on the demands for grants as to how we should proceed with the cut motions, and I think I should give an opportunity to each of the parties concerned to move their respective motions by rotation, *i.e.*, before the second item of a particular party is taken up, other parties should have a chance to move their first cut motion. For example, the party on my left have given notice of the first two cut motions, and the party next to them have also given notice of the next two items. If I take them up as they appear on the agenda paper, it may happen that the other parties who have also given notice of cut motions may not have any chance of moving them and giving expression

to their party points of view. I would therefore propose that the first item of each party should be taken up one after another, and on the basis of this arrangement cut motion No. 2 of Mr. Sasanka Sekhar Sanyal comes up first, and the next item to be taken up will be cut motion No. 4 standing in the name of Mr. Jonab Ali Mazumdar, to which, I find, there is an identical motion, namely, motion No. 11, in the name of Mr. Nausher Ali. Then there is cut motion No. 19 of Mr. Premhari Barma. The Independent Scheduled Caste Party's first motion, however, is No. 13, but as between No. 13 and No. 19, No. 13 deals purely with a local matter, whereas No. 19 raises a more general issue——(Mr. SASANKA SEKHAR SANYAL: No. 13 may be merged in No. 19.) In any case, after finishing the first group of these three motions, I shall come back to item No. 3 or 3A, but as to which of these two will be taken up, I shall leave it to the choice of the party concerned. After that, I shall take up Mr. Giasuddin Ahmad's cut motion No. 5, but there again I would leave it to the choice of that party to decide whether they would like to move motion No. 5 or No. 12.

Mr. ANUKUL CHANDRA DAS: What about the selection of cut motions of our group, Sir?

Mr. SPEAKER: So far as your group is concerned, your cut motions cannot be taken up unless and until the previous ones are disposed of, but those of you who have given notice of identical motions may have a chance to speak on them.

Mrs. HEMAPROVA MAJUMDAR: মাননীয় সভাপতি মহাশয়, মিঃ শশাঙ্ক শেখর সান্যাল মহাশয় যে cut motion এনেছেন আমি তার সমর্থন করিতে দাঁড়িয়েছি। আমাদের মন্ত্রীমণ্ডলী প্রথম যখন আসনে প্রতিষ্ঠিত হ'ন এবং যখন আমাদের প্রধান মন্ত্রীর idea (চিন্তাধারা) উপলব্ধি কোরতে পেরে ছিলাম তখন মনে করেছিলাম তিনি যখন প্রধান মন্ত্রী হিসাবে আসনে উপবিষ্ট হোয়েছেন তখন এদেশের শান্তি শৃঙ্খলা এবং গভর্ণমেণ্টের যা কর্ত্তব্য—দেশের সুখ-সুবিধা ও শান্তি তাঁদের কার্য্যের দ্বারা আসবে। তাঁদের চার বৎসরের কার্য্যধারার ভিতর দিয়া আমরা এই সিদ্ধান্তে উপনীত হোয়েছি, আজকে যে দেশে অশান্তি বিদ্যমান—সব দিক দিয়া চিন্তা কোরে দেখতে গেলে মনে হয় এর কারণ তাঁদের যা কর্ত্তব্য ছিল এবং আমরা যা তাঁদের কাছ থেকে আশা কোরে ছিলাম, যেমন দেশে শিক্ষা বিস্তারের ব্যবস্থা, ব্যবসা বাণিজ্যের বিস্তার, দেশের উন্নতি সাধন, জনসাধারণের ভিতর শান্তি স্থাপন, তা তাঁরা করেন নাই। তাঁদের চার বৎসরের কার্য্যধারার ভিতর দিয়া ইহাই উপলব্ধি হয় যে, বুরোক্রেটিক গভর্ণমেণ্ট যে অশান্তির সৃষ্টি কোর্তে পারেনি বর্ত্তমান মন্ত্রীমণ্ডলীর কার্য্যধারার ভিতর দিয়া বাংলাদেশে সেই অশান্তির সৃষ্টি হোয়েছে। পূর্ব্বে গ্রাম হইতে গ্রামান্তরে হিন্দু মুসলমানে যে প্রীতি ও শান্তি বিদ্যমান ছিল, যে ভাবে হিন্দু মুসলমান একত্রে, এক জায়গায় শান্তিতে বসবাস

করিত, বর্ত্তমান মন্ত্রীমণ্ডলীর কার্য্যের দ্বারা, বিশেষ কোরে প্রধান মন্ত্রীর কার্য্যকলাপ লেখনী এবং ভাষার দ্বারা সেই প্রীতি ও শান্তির স্থলে অশান্তি এবং অপ্রীতির সৃষ্টি হোয়েছে। আজকে তাঁদের কাছে এই কথাই জিজ্ঞাসা কোর্ব্বো তাঁদের কাছ হোতে আমরা যে শান্তি স্থাপনার আকাঙ্খা কোরেছিলাম সেটা তাঁরা কেন কোর্ত্তে পারেন নি? গভর্ণমেণ্টের কর্ত্তব্য হোচ্ছে দেশে শান্তি স্থাপন করা। তাঁরা যে সমস্ত বিল আনয়ন কোরেছেন যেমন মাধ্যমিক শিক্ষাবিল, বিক্রয়কর বিল এবং Calcutta Municipal (Amendment) Bill, ইত্যাদি, এই সমস্তের ভিতর দিয়ে যে অশান্তির সৃষ্টি কোরেছেন, সেইগুলি তাঁদের প্রত্যাহার করা বা পরিবর্ত্তন করা উচিৎ। বিশেষ কোরে প্রধান মন্ত্রী মহাশয় তাঁর ভাষা এবং লেখনী দ্বারা এবং কার্য্যের দ্বারা হিন্দু মুসলমানকে আলাদা করবার চেষ্টা কোরিয়াছেন—জানি না তাঁর মনের ভিতর কি আছে। তিনি হিন্দু মুসলমানকে একটা বিভেদের মধ্যে রাখতে চান। তিনি যে পলিসি নিয়ে কাজ কোরছেন এখনও সময় আছে সেই পলিসি বদলে নূতন প্রণালী এবং নূতন পলিসি দ্বারা দেশে শান্তি স্থাপন করার। তিনি যদি এটা না করেন তা'হলে এর ফল তাঁকে ভোগ কোর্ত্তে হবে। তিনি চিরস্থায়ী বন্দোবস্ত কোরে এখানে আসেন নি। এখনও সময় আছে। আজ তাঁর উচিত দেশের মঙ্গলের জন্য এবং শান্তির জন্য মাধ্যমিক শিক্ষা বিল, Municipal Bill এবং বিক্রয়কর বিল প্রত্যাহার বা সংশোধন করা। আজ দেশবাসী তাঁর কাছে এই কৈফিয়ত চাইছে তিনি দেশের জনসাধারণের কি মঙ্গল কোরছেন? শুধু House এর মঙ্গল কোরলেই হবে না—Coalition মেম্বারদের মঙ্গল কোরলেই হবে না। সারা বাংলার হিন্দু মুসলমানের তিনি কি মঙ্গল কোরছেন এটা তাঁর কাছে আমরা শুনতে চাই। বিশেষ-কোরে তাঁকে বোলতে চাই আজ তিনি যে আসনে যে গদিতে বোসেছেন সেই আসনে সেই গদিতে কাদের দ্বারা এসেছেন সেটা তিনি ভুলে গিয়েছেন। আজও রাজনৈতিক বন্দীরা কেন কারাগারে আছে? তারা ত আমাদেরই ভাই বোন, আমাদেরই দেশের লোক। মন্ত্রীরা যে আমাদের দেশের লোকের ভোট নিয়ে এখানে এসেছেন—সেইটা আমি তাঁদের চিন্তা কোরতে অনুরোধ করি। রাজবন্দীদের ত্যাগের বিনিময়ে, প্রাণের বিনিময়ে, ফাঁসীর বিনিময়ে তাঁরা আজ আসনে উপবিষ্ট। এই সব রাজবন্দীরা দেশকে ভালবাসে। তাদের আর কোন অপরাধ নেই। তারা এখনও জানতে পারে নি তাদের অপরাধ কি। আমলা-তন্ত্র সরকারের চোখে তারা অপরাধী হো'তে পারে। কিন্তু যে গভর্ণমেণ্ট আপনাদিগকে popular Government বলিয়া মনে করে তাদের চো'খে তারা অপরাধী হবে কেন? আজ পর্য্যন্ত তাদের মুক্তির কোন পন্থা কোরছেন না কেন? অতএব আমি অনুরোধ কোরছি তাঁরা যে পলিসি নিয়েছেন সেই পলিসি বদলে, দেশে যে অশান্তির সৃষ্টি কোরেছেন সেই অশান্তিকে দূর কোরে শান্তি স্থাপন করুন। তাঁরা ইচ্ছা কোরলেই তাঁরা যে গদিতে বোসে আছেন সেখান থেকে হিন্দু মুসলমানের মিলন সৃষ্টি কোর্ত্তে পারেন। আমি আশা করি ভবিষ্যতে তাঁরা চিন্তা কোরে এই কাজ কোর্ব্বেন, এই আমার বক্তব্য।

Mr. MD. ABUL FAZL: Mr. Speaker, Sir, I beg to support the cut motion of Mr. Sasanka Sekhar Sanyal. During the last 4 years of the administration of the province by the Ministry they have shown an utter lack of plan and policy with regard to rural

welfare and rural reconstruction. One lakh and 18 thousand rupees has been provided for the reorganisation of the Rural Reconstruction Department and the special provision for distribution through District Officers for rural welfare has been increased by 64 thousand. Whatever works of rural welfare have hitherto been attempted, they have not been done with reference to the local needs and requirements, but have almost always been utilized for political purposes. The result of the action of the Ministry in this sphere has been that their activities have gone against rural welfare itself. I hope the Hon'ble Minister in charge will for once at least explain to this House in detail as to how he proposes to spend the money, and chalk out comprehensive schemes for rural reconstruction works for each district according to local needs. It is a common knowledge that the Ministry have up to now made considerable abuse of their privileged position in furthering party propaganda at public cost and utilizing the services of some officers of Government for electioneering and other party campaigns instead of trying to improve the tone of the district administration which remains as bureaucratic and as anti-national as before. The truth is that the Ministry have during the Provincial Autonomy period undermined the authority of the officers and they have demoralised the heads of departments and their authority. Instead of taking prompt action for or against any proposal, the officers have to wait for the signal of the Ministers or they have to calculate and judge the pleasure of the Ministers on every item of work, and not even of the Ministers but of the party colleagues and friends. They have to wait for instructions. Thus they have become subordinates not only to Ministers but to many more. The Ministry have never tried to bring them into closer touch with the people. The members of the steel frame are as high-browed and stand-offish in their deportment as before and they still live in a world of their own completely detached from the world to realities. And the performances of the I.C.S. of our own country surpass those of the foreign ones. As the saying goes in our province, the heat of the sand is more unbearable than the rays of the sun.

These satarsps should be made to realise their position under the Provincial Autonomy and they should be made to get down from their high pedestal and come in closer touch with the people. They should be made to set up councils of public-spirited non-officials in each district headquarters and in important subdivisional headquarters and the Collectors should be compelled to consult the councils in all important matters. It is thus that the Ministry can hope to carry on the administration for the people.

I must here say a few words about how far the Ministry have been able to bring peace in this province. Instead of trying to bring peace to this province, the communal situation has been brought to such a

state of affairs that the Bengali community is now fairly on the incline which leads on to destruction. In the Punjab a provision of one lakh of rupees has been made in the budget for the promotion of communal harmony in that province. They have prepared a scheme in this connection, which envisages the collection of authentic historical incidents indicating tolerance and respect for the susceptibilities of the followers of other religions on the part of Hindu, Muslim and Sikh rulers, both past and present; organisation of lectures by eminent leaders on communal harmony and encouragement of papers and magazines of good standing which studiously refrain from indulging in communal politics and consistently advocate communal harmony. It has also been proposed to encourage activities initiated for common celebration of certain festivals and of the birthdays of the founders of all religions. An attempt is also being made to strike at the root of the evil by tackling the problem in schools and colleges where prizes will be awarded for essays by students on the subject of communal harmony. Early in February last Sir Sikander Hayat Khan made an appeal to his countrymen, particularly the young generation, to rise above communalism and work for unity. This appeal was made in a students' gathering in connection with the celebration of the "Basant" festival. Unity alone, he said, could bring them freedom.

But, alas, in Bengal we are daily finding charges and counter-charges in the press and platform by the two major communities, not only with regard to the census operations but of other things. When the wolves of Nazism and Communism are prowling in our very borders, we the people of Bengal are indulging in an orgy of class-hatred and caste-hatred creating an atmosphere of communal lawlessness which constitutes a grave menace to the peace and security of this province and people outside are crying "Whither Bengal"?

The Bengal Ministry is responsible for all these. The Almighty alone knows where these will lead to. I must finish by praying as you did in your last Convocation Address in connection with the war, "Let us hope that the Almighty Providence in his infinite mercy and grace will bring in amity, peace and concord in the affairs of this province."

Mr. SPEAKER: The Hon'ble Chief Minister will now reply.

Mr. SASANKA SEKHAR SANYAL: Mr. Speaker, will it not be convenient to follow the previous practice of having debates first upon all the motions? Last year also on the General Administration, all the motions were put to vote on the second day. After all, the Minister in charge will have to reply to all the questions raised and if he does to every question it will mean repetition. Last year this had also been the practice.

Mr. SPEAKER: I will just see whether that was the practice followed last year.

Mr. SYED JALALUDDIN HASHEMY: May I suggest, Sir, that the motion of Mr. Sanyal is very vague and elastic and there is nothing specific to reply. Had it been my motion about the travelling allowances of the Ministers, the Hon'ble Minister in charge might have been able to give a suitable reply. If he replies to every motion, then most of the time will be taken by Government.

Mr. SPEAKER: I am just looking into the matter as to what was the procedure last year. In the meantime, Mr. Jonab Ali Majumdar's motion will be taken up. This will not of course create any precedent.

Maulvi JONAB ALI MAJUMDAR: I beg to move that the demand of Rs. 1,27,00,000 for expenditure under the head "25—General Administration" be reduced by Rs. 100. Sir, the purpose of my motion is to raise a discussion about the necessity of freedom of holding meetings to discuss parliamentary matters and to carry on election party propaganda. আইন সভা এবং অন্যান্য প্রতিষ্ঠানের পার্লিয়ামেণ্টারী কার্য্যাবলী আলোচনা এবং নির্ব্বাচন পরিচালনায় রাজনৈতিক দলসমূহের নিজ নিজ কার্য্য প্রচারের জন্য জনসভা অনুষ্ঠানের অবাধ অধিকারের আবশ্যকতা আলোচনাই আমার এই cut motion আনয়নের উদ্দেশ্য।

দেশের সাধারণ ও স্বাভাবিক অবস্থায় এবং নিরপেক্ষ গভর্ণমেণ্টের আমলে এই শ্রেণীর আলোচনা অনাবশ্যক বলিয়াই বিবেচিত হওয়া উচিত হইত, কারণ এরূপ সভা সমিতি ও বক্তৃতা সব সময়ই সম্পূর্ণ আইন সঙ্গত এবং নিয়মতন্ত্র সঙ্গত। কিন্তু, ভারতবর্ষকে ব্রিটিশ গভর্ণমেণ্ট, ভারতবাসীর সম্মতি ব্যাতিরেকে সম্প্রতি যুদ্ধরত দেশ বলিয়া ঘোষণা করিয়া যে কৃত্রিম অস্বাভাবিক অবস্থার সৃষ্টি করিয়াছেন এবং এই অবস্থাতে বাংলার মন্ত্রীসভা ভারত রক্ষা বিধানে আইনের আশ্রয় লইয়া যেভাবে দিনের পর দিন সত্যিকার জনমতের কণ্ঠরোধ করিয়া চলিয়া আসিতেছেন তাহা অতি বিস্ময়কর। বাংলাদেশে তথাকথিত বর্ত্তমান জনপ্রিয় মন্ত্রী সভার আমলে অন্যায় ভাবে সরকারী কর্ম্মচারিগণের পক্ষপাতিত্ব, অবিচার ও অনাচারের দরুন কিছুকাল যাবত জনসাধারণ যে তিক্ত অভিজ্ঞতা লাভ করিয়া আসিতেছে উহা বাংলার ভবিষ্যত রাজনীতির পক্ষে অতি উদ্বেগজনক হইয়া উঠিয়াছে। ভারত রক্ষা বিধানের নামে বাংলার মন্ত্রিমণ্ডলী আত্ম স্বার্থ রক্ষা ও দলগত স্বার্থ রক্ষা বিধান এবং প্রতিদ্বন্দ্বী রাজনৈতিক দলসমূহকে ছুতানাতা উপলক্ষ করিয়া নিপিড়ন ও নির্য্যাতনের যে ভাবে ব্যবস্থা অবলম্বন করিয়া ভারত রক্ষা বিধানের অপব্যবহার ও অপপ্রয়োগ করিয়া আসিতেছেন তাহা যে কোন জনপ্রিয় গভর্ণমেণ্টের পক্ষে অতি অশোভনীয়। আজ ভারত রক্ষা বিধান বাংলা মন্ত্রী সভার হাতে তাহাদের সরকারী নীতি সমালোচকগণকে অন্যায় ভাবে দমন ও শায়েস্তা করিবার একটী মহা অস্ত্ররূপে ব্যবহৃত হইতেছে।

ভারত রক্ষা বিধানের আশ্রয়ে বাংলা দেশে আজ ১৪৪ ধারার হিড়িক লাগিয়াই আছে। অতি আইন সঙ্গত সভা সমিতির অনুষ্ঠান নির্বিচারে নিয়ন্ত্রিত ও নিষিদ্ধ হইতেছে। এখন প্রত্যেক জিলায় স্থানীয় জিলা ম্যাজিষ্ট্রেটের স্বেচ্ছাচারের উপর সভা সমিতি হওয়া না হওয়া নির্ভর করিতেছে। যে কোন নিয়মতান্ত্রিক আন্দোলনের পক্ষে সম্পূর্ণ আইন সঙ্গত জনসভা অনুষ্ঠানের জন্য উপযুক্ত কর্ত্তৃপক্ষের নিকট অনুমতি চাহিয়াও অনেক ক্ষেত্রে অনুমতি পাওয়া যাইতেছে না, আবার কোন কোন ক্ষেত্রে এমন সব সর্ত্ত কর্ত্তৃপক্ষ কর্ত্তৃক আরোপ করা হয় যে উহা পালন করিতে গেলে ঐ সব সভা সমিতির কোন অর্থ থাকে না।

বাংলাদেশের শান্তি ও শৃঙ্খলার বৃহত্তর স্বার্থের জন্য এবং কেবল মাত্র ঐ উদ্দেশ্যেই সভা সমিতি ও বক্তৃতা নিয়ন্ত্রিত এবং অবস্থা ভেদে নিষিদ্ধ হইতেও আমাদের কৃষক-প্রজা-পার্টির সদস্যগণের কোন আপত্তি নাই। কিন্তু বাংলাদেশে যাহা করা হইতেছে উহার উদ্দেশ্য গভর্ণমেণ্টের সম্পূর্ণ বিপরীত। বাংলা দেশে যে সকল দলের প্রচার, বক্তৃতা ও সভা সমিতির দ্বারা বাংলার শান্তি ও শৃঙ্খলা নষ্ট হইবার উপক্রম হইয়াছে ঐ সমস্ত দলসমূহ বর্ত্তমান মন্ত্রী সভার সমর্থক দল। বর্ত্তমান মন্ত্রী সভার সমর্থক মুসলীম লীগ দল ও হিন্দু মহাসভা দল সাম্প্রদায়িক প্রচারের দ্বারা যে ভাবে বাংলা দেশের আবহাওয়াকে বিষাক্ত করিয়া তুলিয়াছে তাহাতে যে কোন মুহূর্ত্তে শান্তি ভঙ্গ হইয়া বাংলায় গুরুতর পরিস্থিতির সৃষ্টি হইতে পারে। কিন্তু, বাংলার মন্ত্রী সভা এই সকল সাম্প্রদায়িক দলসমূহের এই সকল অপকার্য্য বন্ধের জন্য কি কোন প্রকার চেষ্টা করিতেছেন? মুসলীম লীগ দল ও হিন্দুমহাসভা দল নির্বিঘ্নে সভা সমিতি করিতেছে ও বক্তৃতা দিতেছে। এই সকল সভা সমিতি সম্পর্কে শান্তি শৃঙ্খলার অজুহাত বা ভারত রক্ষা বিধানের আশ্রয় লওয়ার কোনই কথা উঠিতে শুনা যায় না; বরং এই সকল সাম্প্রদায়িক দলসমূহকে গভর্ণমেণ্ট কর্ত্তৃক পরোক্ষভাবে প্রশ্রয় দেওয়া হইতেছে এবং উৎসাহিত করা হইতেছে বলিলে ও অন্যায় হইবে না। কিন্তু বাংলার মন্ত্রী সভার অবলম্বিত অন্যায় নীতি এবং বিধি ব্যবস্থার নিন্দা, আইন সভার কার্য্যাবলী আলোচনা, অথবা নির্ব্বাচন উপলক্ষে প্রচার ইত্যাদি সম্পূর্ণ নিয়মতান্ত্রিক ও আইন সঙ্গত আন্দোলনের জন্য সভা সমিতি অনুষ্ঠানের অনুমতি চাহিয়া বর্ত্তমান মন্ত্রীসভার প্রতিদ্বন্দ্বী কোন রাজনৈতিক দল আবেদন করিলেই ভারত রক্ষা বিধানের বড় বড় কথা এবং বাংলার শান্তি ও শৃঙ্খলা রক্ষার অজুহাত তোলা হয় এবং এই সকল বড় বড় অজুহাত দেখাইয়া বর্ত্তমান মন্ত্রীসভা ও তাঁহাদের অধীনে সরকারী শাসন বিভাগের কর্ম্মচারিগণ এই সকল দল কর্ত্তৃক সভা সমিতি নিষিদ্ধ অথবা অন্যায় ও আপত্তিজনক সর্ত্ত সকল আরোপ করিয়া দিতেছেন। বাংলার মন্ত্রীসভা ও শাসন বিভাগের সরকারী কর্ম্মচারিগণের এই পক্ষপাতমূলক মনোবৃত্তির দরুন বাংলার রাজনীতি আজ কলুষিত। অতি প্রয়োজনীয় ব্যাপারে ও মন্ত্রীসভার স্বেচ্ছাচারের দরুন জনমত প্রকাশের অধিকার খর্ব্ব হইতে চলিয়াছে, বিশেষ করিয়া তথাকথিত ভারত রক্ষা বিধানের আশ্রয়ে বাংলার কৃষক জনসাধারণের এবং তাহাদের সত্যিকার প্রতিনিধিদের কণ্ঠরোধ করিবার একটা বিরাট ষড়যন্ত্র আরম্ভ হইয়াছে। বর্ত্তমান মন্ত্রীসভার আমলে অতি উচ্চ-পদস্থ সরকারী কর্ম্মচারিগণের সুবিচারের উপর জনসাধারণের আস্থা এখন আর নাই। বাংলার শাসন

বিভাগের উচ্চ-পদস্থ সরকারী কর্ম্মচারিগণ সভা সমিতি সম্পর্কে কি প্রকার স্বেচ্ছাচার-মূলক নীতি অবলম্বন করিয়া আসিতেছেন তাহার একটা উদাহরণ দিতেছি। আমি বিগত ১৫ই ফেব্রুয়ারী তারিখে ত্রিপুরার জিলা ম্যাজিষ্ট্রেটের নিকট সভা করিবার অনুমতি চাহিয়া একখানি চিঠি লিখিয়াছিলাম। চিঠিখানা এই।

Dear Sir, I beg to say that as the general election of the Bengal Legislative Assembly and that of the Tippera District Board are approaching, I intend to hold several meetings throughout the whole district of Tippera to discuss the parliamentary activities of the Assembly of the last four years and the activities of the district board of its last term.

I have, therefore, to request that you will kindly accord me necessary permission for holding these public meetings, till the said elections are over. The time and place of each meeting, I intend to hold, will be communicated to the thana officers concerned, in due course.

Yours faithfully,

Janab Ali Majumder, M.L.A.

ত্রিপুরার জিলা ম্যাজিষ্ট্রেট আমার চিঠি খানার যে উত্তর দিয়াছেন তাহা এই—

Office of the District Magistrate of Tripura.

Memorandum No. 381(5)C., dated Comilla, the 27th February, 1941.

To Maulvi Jonab Ali Majumder, M.L.A.

SUBJECT—*Permission for holding public meetings.*

REFERENCE—Your petition, dated the 25th February, 1941.

The date, time and names of the places where the meetings are intended to be held have not been mentioned in your petition.

The subject to be discussed on which speeches are to be made and the points to be touched in such meetings are required for such permission. No speeches on the Jute Restriction or other Bills which have already been passed into law will be allowed.

K. Ahmed,

District Magistrate, Tippera.

ত্রিপুরা জিলার, আমাদের কৃষক-প্রজাপার্টির মেম্বারগণ মৌ: অছিমুদ্দীন আহাম্মদ, মৌ: মুকবল হোসেন, মৌ: রসিমদ্দীন আহাম্মদ এবং মৌ: সাহেদ আলি সাহেব সভা করিবার অনুমতি-

চাহিলে অনুরূপ উত্তর জিলা ম্যাজিষ্ট্রেটের নিকট হইতে পাইয়াছেন। মৌলবী সাহে আলী সাহেব ত্রিপুরা জিলা ম্যাজিষ্ট্রেট কর্ত্তৃক পার্লিয়ামেণ্টারী কার্য্যাবলীর আলোচনা নির্ব্বাচন সভা সমিতি সম্পর্কে অনুরূপ অন্যায় জবাবের আলোচনার জন্য বিগত ৪ঠা মা তারিখে এই পরিষদে একটী মুলতবী প্রস্তাব আনিয়াছিলেন, কিন্তু ঐ মুলতবী প্রস্তাব এখ ও আলোচিত হয় নাই।

মাননীয় Speaker মহোদয়, আপনি ঐ মুলতবী প্রস্তাব সম্পর্কে গভর্ণমেণে মনোভাব জানিতে চাহিলে—অর্থসচিব মাননীয় সোহরোওয়ার্দ্দি সাহেব, বে-কায়দায় পড়ি যে উত্তর দিয়া দুই কুল রক্ষার চেষ্টা করিয়াছিলেন তাহা আপনার স্মরণ আছে। তি এই বলিয়া আপনাকে এবং আমাদিগকে বুঝাইতে চাহিয়াছিলেন যে, ত্রিপুরা জি ম্যাজিষ্ট্রেটের পত্রে যে গভর্ণমেণ্টের মতামত প্রকাশ করা হইয়াছে তাহা তিনি বলি পারেন না,—উহাতে জনৈক ম্যাজিষ্ট্রেটের মত প্রকাশিত হইয়াছে স্বীকার করেন এ আশ্বাস দেন যে, গভর্ণমেণ্ট এই সম্পর্কে অনুসন্ধান করিবেন। অনুসন্ধানে ফলাফল কি হইয়াছে এযাবত আমাদের জানিবার সুযোগ হয় নাই। বর্ত্তমান মন্ত্রীসভ দু-মুখো নীতি সর্ব্বজনবিদিত। কথায় জনসাধারণকে ধোকা দিয়ে কাজের বেলায় অ রকম করাটাকে তাঁহারা তাঁহাদের কৃতিত্ব বলিয়া মনে করেন। ত্রিপুরা জিলা ম্যাজিষ্ট্রেটে কার্য্যকে জনৈক ম্যাজিষ্ট্রেটের মতামত বলিয়া কৈফিয়ত দিতে সোহরোওয়ার্দ্দী সা চেষ্টা করিয়াছেন সত্য; কিন্তু, বিগত ২৮শে ফেব্রুয়ারী তারিখে নিখিল বঙ্গ কৃষক-প্র সমিতি দ্বারা ঘোষিত নিখিল বঙ্গ পাট দিবস উপলক্ষে বাংলাদেশের প্রায় সকল জিলাতে ১৪৪ ধারা জারি এবং ভারত রক্ষা বিধানের আশ্রয় লইয়া উক্ত পাট দিবস উদ্‌যাপনে সভা-সমিতি গভর্ণমেণ্ট কর্ত্তৃক ব্যাপকভাবে বাধা দেওয়া হইল কেন? পাট দি উদ্‌যাপনে বাধা দেওয়া ব্যাপারেও কি মন্ত্রীসভার কোন দায়িত্ব নাই। এখানে ও শাসন বিভাগের ভারপ্রাপ্ত মাননীয় মন্ত্রী মহোদয় স্থানীয় জিলা ম্যাজিষ্ট্রেটগণের নিজ নি বিবেচনাধীন কাজ করা হইয়াছে বলিয়া কৈফিয়ত দিবেন? পাট দিবস উদ্‌যাপনের ম সরকারী অনুসৃত পাট নীতির ন্যায্য সমালোচনা ছাড়া বেআইনী বা উত্তেজনার কিছু ছিল না, তথাপি বাংলার বিভিন্ন পাট প্রধান জিলাসমূহে এই সম্পর্কে সম্পূর্ণ আই সঙ্গত সমালোচনা ও অধিকার বন্ধ করিয়া দিয়া বাংলাদেশের কোটী কোটী পাট চাষীগণে কণ্ঠরোধ করিবার কি ন্যায় সঙ্গত কারণ থাকিতে পারে? বাংলার মন্ত্রীমণ্ডলী যাহা জনসাধারণের নিকট অতি জনপ্রিয় বলিয়া বড়াই করেন তাহারাই আবার জনসাধারণে সভাসমিতিতে সমবেত হইয়া সত্যিকার জনমত ব্যক্ত করিতে দিতে এত আতঙ্কগ্রস্থ কেন আজ তাহারা ক্ষমতা মদে গর্ব্বিত হইয়া জনমতকে উপেক্ষা করিতে পারেন, কিন্তু জনমত গঠ ও জনমত বিকাশের নিয়মতান্ত্রিক আন্দোলন গলা টিপিয়া মারিবার চেষ্টা করিলে তাহাদে দায়িত্বপূর্ণ প্রাদেশিক স্বায়ত্বশাসন প্রবর্ত্তনের স্বার্থকতা কোথায়? কাজেই এই সব কাউন্সিল এসেম্বলী একটা বিরাট প্রহসন মাত্র হইবে। আমি বাংলার মন্ত্রীসভাকে সত করিয়া দিতে চাই যে তাহাদের বুঝা উচিত—যেখানে দেশের জনসাধারণ আইন সঙ্গতভা তাহাদের জনমত প্রকাশ করিতে গেলে ও জোর করিয়া তাহাদের কণ্ঠরোধ করা হ সেখানে আইনের সীমা লঙ্ঘিত হইয়া বিদ্রোহ ও বিপ্লব অনিবার্য্য হইয়া পড়ে।

বাংলার বর্ত্তমান মন্ত্রীসভার মনোবৃত্তি সম্পর্কে আমাদের যে ধারণা জন্মিয়াছে এবং তাহাদের কার্য্যকলাপ ও উক্তি সম্পর্কে আমাদের কৃষক প্রজাপার্টির যে তিক্ত অভিজ্ঞতা লাভ হইয়াছে উহাতে আমরা মন্ত্রিমণ্ডলীর কোন কৈফিয়ত বা মৌখিক কথায় আস্থা স্থাপন করিয়া নির্ভর করিতে রাজী নহি। মাননীয় স্যার নাজিমউদ্দিন এই এসেম্বলী কক্ষে আমার যতদূর মনে আছে, কয়েক মাস পূর্ব্বে এই উক্তি করিয়া স্বীকার করিয়াছিলেন যে আইন সভার সদস্যগণকে সকল অবস্থাতেই আইন সভার কার্য্যাবলী আলোচনার জন্য সভাসমিতি করিতে অনুমতি দিতে জিলা ম্যাজিষ্ট্রেটগণের কোন আপত্তি থাকিবে না। কিন্তু, ত্রিপুরার জিলা ম্যাজিষ্ট্রেট কৃষক-প্রজা পার্লিয়ামেণ্টারী পার্টির আমাদের পাঁচজন মেম্বারকে উপরোক্তভাবে যে জবাব দিয়াছেন তাহাতে এবং পাট দিবস উদ্‌যাপন উপলক্ষে অন্যান্য জিলার জিলা ম্যাজিষ্ট্রেটগণের আদেশ ও আচরণ দ্বারা বর্ত্তমান মন্ত্রীসভার মেম্বার নির্ব্বাচন প্রাক্কালে সরকারী নীতি সমালোচক দলের সভা-সমিতি করা সম্পর্কে কি নীতি অবলম্বিত হইবে তাহা ধরা পড়িয়া গিয়াছে। তাহাদের হাতে ভারত রক্ষা বিধানরূপ মারাত্মক অস্ত্রত আছেই, উপরন্তু, শাসন ক্ষমতা তাহাদের হাতে; ইহাছাড়া সরকারী উচ্চ-পদস্থ কোন কোন কর্ম্মচারি সরকার বিরোধী দল ও তাহাদের সমর্থকদলকে নিপিড়নের জন্য অতিমাত্রায় উৎসাহী, ত্রিপুরা জিলা ম্যাজিষ্ট্রেটের আমার নিকট লিখিত চিঠি বিশ্লেষণ করিলে উহার মর্ম্ম ইহাই উপলব্ধি হয়। যথা, (১) আমি নির্ব্বাচক মণ্ডলীর নিকট পাট চাষ নিয়ন্ত্রণ সম্পর্কে অথবা যে সকল বিল আইনে পরিণত হইয়াছে তৎসম্পর্কে দোষগুণের কোন কথাই বলিতে পারিব না অথবা ঐ সকল আইনকানুন সম্পর্কে জনসাধারণের মতামত কি তাহাও আলোচিত হইতে দেওয়া হইবে না। (২) আমি যে বক্তৃতা দিতে চাই তাহা কোন বিষয় সম্পর্কে এবং আমার বক্তৃতার ভিতর কি কি বিষয় আলোচিত হইবে, অর্থাৎ সহজ ও সরল কথায় ম্যাজিষ্ট্রেট সাহেব আমার বক্তৃতাটীর প্রত্যেক কথা আগাগোড়া তাঁহার অনুমোদন সাপেক্ষ করিতে চান নাই কি? কারণ আমি কি বিষয় আলোচন করিবো তাহা তাঁহাকে আমার চিঠিতে জানাইয়া দেওয়া স্বত্তেও পুনরায় এই ভাবে জানিবার দাবী করার অন্য কি অর্থ হইতে পারে? (৩) এই সকল সর্ত্ত পালনের প্রতিশ্রুতি দিলে এবং তৎপর সভার তারিখ, স্থান, সময় জানাইলে ম্যাজিষ্ট্রেট সাহেব আমাকে সভা করিতে অনুমতি দিতে পারেন, নাও পারেন। ত্রিপুরা জিলা ম্যাজিষ্ট্রেট সাহেবের চিঠির সর্ত্তসমূহ যে আশ্চর্য্যজনক ও জবরদস্তি মূলক, আশা করি এসেম্বলীর সকল পার্টির সদস্যগণই স্বীকার করিতে বাধ্য হইবেন। ইহা আইন সভার সদস্যগণের আইন সভার বাহিরে, তাহাদের অধিকারের উপর ম্যাজিষ্ট্রেটের অনধিকার চর্চা ব্যতীত আর কিছুই নহে। মন্ত্রীসভা যদি এই অনধিকার চেষ্টার নীতি সমর্থন করেন বা এই নীতি অনুসরণ করিতে থাকেন তাহা হইলে বর্ত্তমান আইন সভা সমূহে আমাদের প্রতিনিধিগণের আইন সভায় আসার কোন স্বার্থকতাই থাকতে পারে না। অত্রাবস্থায় মন্ত্রীসভার উচিত হইবে গভর্ণরকে পরামর্শ দিয়া আইন সভাসমূহ ভাঙ্গিয়া দিয়া সদস্যগণকে প্রতিনিধিত্বের দায়িত্ব হইতে মুক্ত করিয়া দেওয়া। যদি মন্ত্রীসভা তাহা করা সঙ্গত মনে না করেন, তাহা হইলে তাহাদের উচিত আমার প্রস্তাব গ্রহণ করা এবং ভারত রক্ষা বিধানের ভূয়া আশ্রয় গ্রহণ না করিয়া, পার্লিয়ামেণ্টারী কার্য্যাবলী আলোচনা এবং নির্ব্বাচন প্রচার ও জনমত গঠনের জন্য দল নির্ব্বিঘ্নে সভাসমিতি করিবার পূর্ণ স্বাধীনতা দেওয়া। আশা করি আমার এই প্রস্তাব সকল দলেরই সমর্থন লাভ করিবে।

(On Mr. Jonab Ali Mazumdar resuming his seat on the conclusion of his speech, several honourable members rose up.)

Mr. SPEAKER: I am afraid members have not correctly followed the procedure I have laid down. It would be better if a particular item is first dealt with before the next one is taken up.

Mr. Fazlul Huq, will you now speak by way of reply to cut motion No. 2?

The Hon'ble Mr. A. K. FAZLUL HUQ: As you decide, Sir, I shall reply piecemeal, but possibly to give the Opposition and others in the House an opportunity to have a full discussion, it would be better if I make a joint reply to all of them.

Mr. SPEAKER: If the Hon'ble the Chief Minister feels that it would be better to make a joint reply, I shall do one thing. After I close the debate, the Hon'ble Minister will give his reply after which I will allow no further speech.

Mr. SASANKA SEKHAR SANYAL: Yes, that is what we suggest, Sir.

Mr. SPEAKER: But, mind, there would be no reopening of the question after the Hon'ble Minister's reply has been given.

Mr. A. M. A. ZAMAN : মাননীয় স্পীকার মহোদয় সাহেব, আমার বন্ধু জনাব আলি সাহেব যে ছাটাই প্রস্তাব এনেছেন সেটা আমি সমর্থন কোর্ত্তে দাঁড়িয়েছি। এই প্রস্তাব সমর্থন কোর্ত্তে গিয়ে আমি দেখিয়ে দিতে চাই যে আমি যে Constituency থেকে returned হোয়েছি, সেখানে প্রায় মোটামুটি ১৪ মাস আমাকে যেতে দেওয়া হয় নাই। কিন্তু তারপর যখন আমাকে যেতে দেবার অধিকার দেওয়া হোল তখন বলা হোল, যেতে পারবে কিন্তু কারো সঙ্গে কোন কথা বোলতে পারবে না। সামনে election আসছে, সুতরাং, Coalition মন্ত্রিমণ্ডলীর সমর্থক মেম্বাররা যেখানে সেখানে গিয়ে meeting করবার সমস্ত রকম সুবিধা পাচ্ছেন। আর আমরা যারা Oppositionএ রোয়েছি তাদের meeting করা দূরের কথা, নিজের Constituencyতে যাওয়ার পথে বাধার সৃষ্টি করা হয়। এ জিনিষটা কেন করা হোচ্ছে, আমি সে সম্বন্ধে মন্ত্রিমণ্ডলীর কাছে জানতে চাই। ওঁদের উদ্দেশ্যটা কি? ওঁনারা বলেন, আমরা popular Minister আমরা চাই দেশের সর্ব্বসাধারণ যাতে নিজেদের ব্যক্তিগত স্বাধীনতা বজায় রেখে চোলতে পারে সেই সমস্ত ব্যবস্থা কোরতে। কিন্তু, মন্ত্রিমণ্ডলী নিজেদের প্রতিপত্তি কায়েম করবার জন্য এই যে ধাপ্পাবাজী আরম্ভ কোরে দিয়েছেন, এর প্রতিকারের উপায় কি? আমারাও যদি স্পষ্ট কোরে আমাদের

সমস্ত দাবী জানিয়ে দিতে পারি, তাহ'লে হয়তো কিছু হোতে পারে। আমাদের oppo ition থেকে, জেল বিভাগের rule change করবার কথায়, মি: মোজাম্মেল হক আমাদের ঠাট্টা কোরে বোলেছেন যে যারা জেলে যাবে তাদের জন্য আধ সের কোরে ঘী দিতে হবে নাস্তা বা হালুয়া তৈরী করবার জন্য, এবং তাদের বালিস, গদি তৈরী কোরে দিতে হবে ভাল বকের পালক আর Egyptian তুলা দ্বারা—এই রকম ওঁরা টিট্‌কারী কোরে থাকেন। অবশ্য এই রকম করাটা বরং তাঁদের পক্ষে যথেষ্ট কারণ রোয়েছে। কিন্তু, কাদের জন্য ওঁনারা আজ এই Houseএ আসতে পেরেছেন সে কথাটা ওঁনারা একবার ভাবেন না। ওঁরা ভাবছেন এই রকম টিট্‌কারী কোরলে এবং ধর্ম্মের নামে ধোকা দিয়া জনসাধারণকে আবার আগামী electionএ ওঁনারা returned হোয়ে আসতে পার্ব্বেন। আজকে মন্ত্রিমণ্ডলীকে এই কথা বোলতে চাই—ওঁনারা সত্যিকার হিসাবে দেশের উপকার করতে চান না শুধু ধোকা দেওয়াই সার কোরতে চান। তাহলে সেটা স্পষ্ট কোরে জানিয়ে দেওয়া দরকার। আর তা না কোরে এইভাবে ওঁরা কেবল আমাদের meeting বন্ধ করবার চেষ্টা কোরছেন কিন্তু আমি জানাইয়া দিতেছি এই ধোকাবাজীর এবং ফাঁকী-বাজীর উত্তর জনসাধারণ দিবে। বিশেষ কোরে যে জনাব আলি সাহেব কয়েকটি বিষয় এখানে জানিয়ে দিয়েছেন তা থেকে বোঝা যায় যে বর্ত্তমান মন্ত্রিমণ্ডলী কি ভাবে আমাদের meeting বন্ধ করবার চেষ্টা কোরেছেন। বিশেষ কোরে আমার উপর order দেওয়া হোয়েছে যে আমি আমার Con tituencyতে গিয়ে কারও সঙ্গে কথা বোলতে পারবো না। কারণ ওঁরা জানেন যে আমি আমার Constituencyতে গেলে পর হাজার হাজার লোক আমার সঙ্গে দেখা কোর্ত্তে আসে এবং সমস্ত office লোকে ভর্ত্তী হোয়ে যায়। ওঁদের মতলব, যদি আমি কারও সঙ্গে কথা না বলি, তাহলে আমার সেখানে যাওয়া একেবারে নিষ্ফল হোয়ে যাবে। এর পূর্ব্বে ১৪ মাস আমাকে সেখানে যেতেই দেওয়া হয় নাই। কাজেই মন্ত্রী মহাশয়কে বোলতে চাই meeting বন্ধ করা সম্বন্ধে এই যে order দেওয়া হোয়েছে, হয় সেটা withdraw করা হোক আর না হয় বোলে দিন এই order withdraw কোর্ব্বেন না—আমরা যাতে Publicএর সামনে গিয়ে election campaign কোর্ত্তে না পারি। তাহলে Publicও বুঝতে পারবে আমরাও বুঝতে পার্ব্ব যে ওঁরা চান যে আগামী electionএ ওঁনারাই কেবল আসতে পারেন, আর কেউ যেন আসতে না পারে। সেই দিক থেকে বোলতে গিয়ে আমি আর একটা কথা বোলতে চাই যে মন্ত্রিমণ্ডলী আজকে নিজেদের election campaignএর জন্য দেশ বিদেশ ঘুরে বেড়াচেছন এবং লক্ষ লক্ষ টাকা Public fund থেকে খরচ কোর্চ্ছেন। এই ভাবে ওঁনারা দেশের সর্ব্বনাশ কোর্চ্ছেন। ওঁরা যে নিজের একটী পয়সাও এই জন্য খরচ করেন না তার প্রমাণ আমরা পেয়েছি। ওঁনারা একটা পয়সাও নিজের পকেট থেকে খরচ না কোরে গরীবের টাকা খরচ করেন নিজের Partyর propaganda করাবার জন্য। অথচ আমাদের বেলাই সত্যিকার কথা বলবার অধিকার নেই। বিশেষ কোরে যে সমস্ত বিষয়ে যে ভাবে ধাপ্পাবাজী দেওয়া হোচ্ছে, তাতে Public যাতে কিছুই জানতে না পারে তার চেষ্টা করা হোচ্ছে; এবং এই Assembly Houseএর মধ্যে তারা যাতে সেই সব বিষয় আলোচনা না কোরতে পারে, এবং বাইরে meeting না কোরতে পারে ওঁনারা তারই চেষ্টা কোর্চ্ছেন। কাজেই আমার শেষ নিবেদন যে, ওঁনারা meeting করবার সুযোগ

নেন্ আমাদেরও তেমনি স্থযোগ দেওয়া হোক। জনমতের সামনে এগিয়ে আস্থন—সত্য যদি ওঁনারা হ'ন তাহলে ওঁনারা দাঁড়াবেন, আর সত্য যদি আমরা হই তাহলে আমরা দাঁড়াবো। Publicএর কাছে এর বিচারের ভার দেওয়া হোক।

(At this stage, the House was adjourned for 20 minutes.)

(After adjournment.)

Mr. SHAHEDALI: Mr. Speaker, Sir, I beg to support the motion of Mr. Jonab Ali Majumdar. The Krishak Proja phobia is a virulent type of disease, and it has attacked various members of this House.

Mr. SASANKA SEKHAR SANYAL: Who is listening on behalf of the empty Cabinet, Sir?

The Hon'ble Sir BIJOY PRASAD SINGH ROY: I am taking notes.

Mr. SHAHEDALI: Especially, Sir, it has attacked the members of the Coalition Party in this House. The disease has got one remedy and that remedy is *dal-bhat*. The Hon'ble Mr. Fazlul Huq has refused to do anything to cure this disease, and he even said on the floor of the House that he could not provide people with *dal-bhat* and that he was not a *baburchi*. Now, Sir, this incurable disease has affected the members of the Coalition Party, so much that they run in different districts to get some remedy for this. They have gone to the district of Tippera; they have gone to the district of Mymensingh; they have gone to the district of Faridpur and also to other districts, and there they are trying if they can get any remedy for this disease. Unfortunately, Sir, the more they prescribe medicine, the dreader the disease becomes. You know, Sir, that during the beginning of the first session the Hon'ble Mr. Fazlul Huq with his other colleagues went to Daudkandi in the district of Tippera and there he made a memorable speech against the members of the Krishak Proja Party. At that time people believed what he said, but that time has now gone and the people now realise that what the Krishak Proja members had said was the right thing. The test has been proved by the recent visit to Tippera of two of the Hon'ble Ministers, namely, the Hon'ble Sir Nazimuddin and the Hon'ble Mr. Tamizuddin Khan.

Now, Sir, the action of the Ministers may be criticised as follows. You know, Sir, the Bengali proverb "চোরকে বলে চুরি করতে আর গৃহস্থকে বলে সজাগ থাকতে", which means hunting with the hound and running with the hare. Whenever any District Magistrate bans any meeting, the Ministers say that they do not know anything about the

matter and that it has been done by a particular Magistrate and that they are not responsible for it. They want to say that they have not banned meetings regarding any discussion or action of this sort. The other day, Sir, on the 4th March, I moved an adjournment motion before the House and described how the District Magistrate of Tippera banned all meetings with an unqualified order that he will not allow any member of the House to discuss about things regarding parliamentary activities. Now, Sir, the Hon'ble Minister stated that it was not the policy of Government that all meetings should be stopped generally. But the Magistrate of a particular district might say something. As to how this policy of Government is being worked out by the Magistrates of other districts, I shall read out an order which has been recently issued by the District Magistrate of Tippera: "Whereas I am informed that you"—here appears the name of the person—"propose to hold a meeting and assembly at Comilla and other places of this district as a protest against the Government Jute Regulation Act, 1940, and the Government scheme about Jute Restriction and whereas in my opinion the holding of such meetings, processions and assemblies is likely to affect prejudicially the maintenance of public order, now, therefore, in exercise of the power conferred on me under clause 2 of the Bengal Government notification No. 912 P.D., dated 19th October, 1940, I prohibit you from holding such meetings, processions and assemblies in any place within the district and point out to you that contravention of this order is punishable with imprisonment for three years and with fine."

Now, Sir, the Hon'ble Minister the other day stated that he did not know why a particular Magistrate had passed this order. Here, Sir, we find with reference to the office memorandum that it is this Government who have issued circulars to District Magistrates for their guidance So, the Ministers cannot say that they are not aware of the circular and it seems that it is their policy to repress the people and not to allow them to hold meetings. Now the general order is that only for the maintenance of peace they are not going to allow meetings to be held in that particular district. So far as I am concerned, in my constituency I have not held any meetings. But there were meetings held by the members of the Muslim League, and nobody appeared in their meetings to protest. How could the District Magistrate be convinced that there was a likelihood of the breach of the peace by the meetings of the members of the Krishak-Proja Party because there was no meeting. If anybody can be held responsible for any breach of the peace, it is the members of the Muslim League and not the members of the Krishak-Proja Party. They want to prohibit these meetings by the members of the Krishak-Proja Party because of the fear that the next election is coming soon and because of the fear that we will divulge the secrets, the misdeeds of the Hon'ble Ministers and other things which will not be creditable or palatable to

them and it is for this reason that they are vehement in asking the local authority not to allow to hold any meeting. Sir, it has often been said by the Hon'ble Home Minister that it is not the policy of Government to ban holding meetings so far as parliamentary activities are concerned. The other day the Hon'ble Finance Minister gave the assurance to the House that he would enquire of the District Magistrate of Tippera as to why he prohibited members of this Legislature to discuss things concerning their parliamentary activities and to-day, I hope, he will be in a position to reply on that point. It is beyond the imagination of any person that Government can stand in the way of holding meetings by the public in which members of this House can explain what has been done in this House in the past. Government are standing in the way of disclosing things to the members of constituencies. My friend Maulvi Jonab Ali Majumdar has already stated how the people of the district of Tippera are being harassed, specially the members coming from that district. Sir, I want to know from the Hon'ble Minister in charge whether he will take any steps in that direction. Sir, with these words, I support the motion of Maulvi Jonab Ali Majumdar.

Mr. ABDUL WAHED : মাননীয় সভাপতি সাহেব, আমার বন্ধু জনাব আলি মজুমদার সাহেব যে ছাটাই প্রস্তাব উপস্থিত কোরেছেন সেটা আমি সমর্থন কোরছি। বাংলার মন্ত্রিমণ্ডলী ভারত রক্ষা আইনের যে নীতি অবলম্বন কোরেছেন তাকে ভারত রক্ষা আইন না বোলে তাকে বাংলার মন্ত্রিমণ্ডলী রক্ষা আইন নামে অভিহিত কোরলে ভাল হোত। আমার একটা কথা মনে পড়লো। একটী ছোট মেয়ে খালি হুকা টানছিল দেখে তার মা তাকে বোললে "তুমি তামাক খাচ্ছ? তোমার বাবাকে বলে দেবো।" তখন মেয়ে বললে "আমি খালি হুকা খাচ্ছি, কিন্তু তুমি যে লুকিয়ে লুকিয়ে তামাক খাও আমি বাবাকে সে কথা বলে দেবো।" তখন তার মা বোললে "আজ থেকে তামাক কেন গাঁজা খেলেও কিছু বোলবো না; তুমি আমার কথাও তোমার বাবাকে কিছু বোলো না।" আমাদের মন্ত্রিমণ্ডলীর অবস্থাও তাই হয়ে দাঁড়াচ্ছে। এই ভারত রক্ষা আইনের অজুহাতে নিজেদের অপকর্ম্ম, কুকর্ম্মের কথা যাহাতে আমরা জনসাধারণের মধ্যে সভা সমিতি বা খবরের কাগজ মারফতে ব্যক্ত করে দেই সেই ভয়ে তাঁরা নিজেদের অপকর্ম্মগুলি ঢাকবার জন্য এই আইন জারি কোরে বাংলার জনসাধারণকে নিপীড়িত কোরছেন। আমরা কৃষক-প্রজাদল যখনই সভা সমিতি কোরতে যাই তখনই আমাদের উপর ১৪৪, ১৪৫ ধারা এই রকম সকল ধারাই প্রয়োগ করা হয়। এইরূপে আমাদের মুখবন্ধ করা হয়। মন্ত্রিমণ্ডলীর সাক্ষাতে যদি আমরা তাহাদের কার্য্যকলাপের সমালোচনা কোরতে যাই তখন আমাদের উপর লাঠি পেটা করা হয়। এই রকম আইন কোরে গভর্ণমেণ্ট আমাদের মুখ বন্ধ করবার চেষ্টা কোরছেন। আর অপর দিকে ভাড়াটিয়া গুণ্ডার দ্বারা অন্যায়ভাবে জব্দ করবার চেষ্টা কোরছেন। এই যে অন্যায় অত্যাচার, অবিচার, নিপীড়ণ বাংলার জনসাধারণ কিছুতেই সহ্য কোরতে পারবে না। মাননীয় সভাপতি সাহেব, এই ভারত রক্ষা আইনের নামে সভা সমিতিতে বক্তৃতা করা, খবরের কাগজে লেখা ইত্যাদি সমস্ত বন্ধ করে দিয়েছেন।

মন্ত্রীদের অন্যায় কার্য্যে, তাদের কুকর্ম্মে, তাদের প্রতিশ্রুতি ভঙ্গের কেউ প্রতিবাদ বা সমালোচনা কোরতে পারবে না। সকলকেই গলা টিপে মারবার ব্যবস্থা করা হোয়েছে। কারণ তাহলে সকল গোপন রহস্য প্রকাশ হয়ে পড়ে। (A COALITION MEMBER :—বেশ বোলেছেন।) মাননীয় সভাপতি সাহেব, আজকে বাংলার জনসাধারণকে আশ্বাস, প্রতিশ্রুতি দিয়ে এই পরিষদে আমরা মেম্বারগণ যে উপস্থিত হোয়েছি, বিশেষ কোরে মাননীয় প্রধান মন্ত্রী সাহেব ইলেকসনের পূর্ব্বে কৃষক-প্রজা দলের তরফ থেকে যে ওয়াদা দিয়েছিলেন তা তিনি ভুলে গেলেও বাংলার জনসাধারণ ভুলে নাই, আমরাও ভুলি নাই। কাজেই আজকে বাংলার জনসাধারণ তাঁর কাছ থেকে কড়ায় গণ্ডায় কৈফিয়ত নেবার জন্য প্রস্তুত হচ্ছে। কিন্তু তাদের মুখ বন্ধ করা হোয়েছে এই ভারত রক্ষা আইনের দ্বারা। আইন সভার কার্য্যকলাপ কি ভাবে পরিচালিত হয় তাহা জনসভার দ্বারা এবং বক্তৃতার দ্বারা জনসাধরণের নিকট প্রচার করা দরকার কিন্তু ভারত রক্ষা আইনের বিধান অনুসারে গভর্ণমেণ্টের বিনা অনুমতিতে কোন সভা সমিতি করা যায় না। জেলা ম্যাজিষ্ট্রেটের নিকট দরখাস্ত করিয়া যদিও বা সভা সমিতি করবার অধিকার পাওয়া যায় তবে এই ভাবে অনুমতি দেওয়া হয় যে "এটা বোলতে পারবে, ওটা বোলতে পারবে না, এই ভাবে চোলবে, ঐ ভাবে চোলবে না।" এই ভাবে স্বাধীন মত প্রকাশ করাটা বন্ধ হয়েছে। বাংলার কৃষকের টাকা পাওয়ার একমাত্র সম্বল যে পাট, তাই নিয়ে মন্ত্রিমণ্ডলী দীর্ঘ চারি বছর যে ছিনিমিনি খেলছেন তার সমালোচনা সম্পর্কে পাট দিবস উদ্‌যাপন করবার জন্য বাংলার কৃষক প্রজাপার্টি থেকে দিন নির্দ্ধারণ কোরে ২৮শে ফেব্রুয়ারী পাট দিবস ঘোষণা করা হোয়েছিল। কিন্তু ভারত রক্ষা আইনের দ্বারা সারা বাংলার জনসাধারণের মুখ বন্ধ করা হোল যাতে মন্ত্রিমণ্ডলীর গোপন গুমর (পাট নিয়ন্ত্রণ ব্যাপার) ফাঁক হোতে না পারে। এই ভাবে জনসাধারণের গলা টিপে কিছু দিন রাখা যেতে পারে। কিন্তু আমার মনে হয় অদূর ভবিষ্যতে জনসাধারণের অসন্তোষ এমনি ভাবে ফুটে উঠবে যে তাদের সেই আন্দোলনকে থামিয়ে রাখা গভর্ণমেণ্টের সম্ভব হবে না। আমি জনসাধারণের পক্ষ থেকে এই সব কথা বোলছি। আমার কথা শুনে কোয়ালিশনের বন্ধুরা, বিশেষ করে মন্ত্রিমণ্ডলী একটু মুচকি হাসছেন তা দেখে কবির ঐ কথাটা মনে পড়ল যথা—হাঁস হাঁস হাঁস শিশু, নহে দিন দূর, সংসার সাগর তীরে বসিয়ে যখন, বিষাদ তরঙ্গমালা, গণিতে গণিতে কাল, হইবে প্রফুল্ল মুখ, বুঝিবে তখন নির্ম্মল শৈশব ক্রীড়া, সুখের কেমন। (Applause. A Coalition member—আমরা কি শিশু?) শিশুর চেয়েও অধম।

Babu PREMHARI BARMA: Sir, I beg to move that the demand of Rs. 1,27,00,000 for expenditure under the head "25—General Administration" be reduced by Rs. 100.

Sir, Government fixed a ratio for appointing Muslims, Scheduled Castes and General Hindus in the services of the Government and they assured all the communities that appointment in all the departments of Government should be made on the basis of this ratio. According to this ratio, 50 per cent. should go to the Muslims, 15 per cent.

to the Scheduled Castes and 35 per cent. to others. But this communal ratio in services is scarcely adhered to in the case of the Scheduled Caste candidates. Government strictly follow the rules in the case of Muslims only. In their case the question of suitability does not arise If the candidate is a Muslim, then he is certainly suitable in all respects and especially if he is related in any way to any of the members of the Coalition Party. But, Sir, in the case of the Scheduled Caste candidates rules are quite different, at least at the time of applying these rules. Though the Scheduled Caste candidates are quite suitable and have the necessary qualifications, still they do not get Government service in spite of the fact that 15 per cent. of the services are reserved for them. Sir, in the last Bengal Civil Service Examination there were 9 Scheduled Caste Candidates and out of these 9, 5 passed the examination. Out of these 5 one of course was found unfit on medical examination. Thus though four Scheduled Caste candidates passed the Bengal Civil Service Examination and were found fit in all respects, none of them was appointed as Deputy Collector, but only two were appointed as Sub-Deputy Collectors.

Sir, from the candidates who pass the Bengal Civil Service Examination are also recruited Upper Division clerks of the Secretariat and other superior officers of the Government, but the two passed Scheduled Caste candidates of the Bengal Civil Service Examination were not provided with any of the superior services of the Government. In the face of all these, are we to believe that Government are strictly following the service rules and the communal ratio in the case of the Scheduled Castes of Bengal?

Sir, in answer to a question put by my friend Mr. Madhusudan Sarkar, the Hon'ble Khwaja Sir Nazimuddin said that there was no vacancy for the Scheduled Castes in the Upper Division services of the Secretariat. Sir, may I enquire how many Muslim candidates were not provided with any posts in the superior services of the Government? In the case of Muslim candidates, the question of "no vacancy" does not arise and cannot arise. Sir, this Government says that it is a friend of the Scheduled Castes and that it is looking to the interests of the Scheduled Castes. But as a matter of fact, we do not find that the present Government is really doing anything for the Scheduled Castes.

Sir, not only the Scheduled Castes are being neglected in the case of superior services of the Government, but that they are not getting their legitimate shares in all other services of the Government also. May I know how many Scheduled Caste candidates have been appointed in the services under the Court of Wards? In spite of the assurances of the Minister in charge of the Revenue Department, we do not find that the claims of the Scheduled Castes are being looked into by the Court of Wards Department.

In the Medical Department also an adequate number of Scheduled Caste candidates are not being appointed. Not to speak of giving appointments to the Scheduled Caste candidates in the Medical Department, Government are not even appointing Scheduled Castes candidates as House Surgeons in the Medical College, though there were some candidates from the Scheduled Castes.

Sir, recently House Surgeons were appointed in the Medical College. While inviting applications it was specifically mentioned that some Muslims would be taken, but no mention whatsoever was made about the Scheduled Castes. The Medical Department ought to know that the Scheduled Castes also have their quota of 15 per cent. in the services of the Medical Department. May I ask the Government as to why no applications for services in the Medical Department or for posts of House Surgeons are invited from the Scheduled Caste candidates?

Sir, it is really regrettable that the Government which professes to be the friend of the Scheduled Castes in one breath denies their claims in another breath. Sir, in one of the statements which the Hon'ble the Chief Minister issued in connection with the census, he said that he is not going to forsake the Scheduled Castes unless the Scheduled Castes forsake him. Sir, how can the Scheduled Castes rely on the statement of the Hon'ble the Chief Minister when the Scheduled Castes find that their legitimate claims are being ignored systematically? The Scheduled Castes hope that the present Government should change its present policy of looking into the interests of a particular community only, but should also look to the legitimate interests of other communities also. The Hon'ble Ministers who are running the present Government are not there to look to the interests of a particular community only, but they are there to look to the interests of other communities also.

With these words, Sir, I commend my motion for the acceptance of the House.

Mr. RASIK LAL BISWAS : সভাপতি মহাশয়, আমি, গভর্ণমেণ্টের চাকরীতে Scheduled Casteদের যে Ratio স্থির হোয়েছিল তাহা যে অনেক স্থলে কার্য্যে পরিণত হোচ্ছে না তাহার প্রতি কেবল গভর্ণমেণ্টের দৃষ্টি আকর্ষণ কোরছি—আমি কোন cut motion move কোচ্ছি না। বর্ত্তমান গভর্ণমেণ্ট কর্ত্তৃক এ প্রদেশের শাসন ভার গৃহীত হওয়ার পূর্ব্বে Scheduled Casteদের চাকরী সম্বন্ধে বিশেষ কোন ব্যবস্থা ছিল না। আর যদিও বা কিছু ছিল তা observe করা হোতনা। তার ফলে Scheduled Casteএর প্রার্থীদের পক্ষে গভর্ণমেণ্ট চাকরীতে প্রবেশের পথ এক প্রকার বন্ধ ছিল। বর্ত্তমান Government শাসনভার গ্রহণ কোরে Scheduled Casteএর সংখ্যানুপাতে সরকারী চাকরিতে প্রবেশের নীতি গ্রহণ কোরেছেন। কিন্তু, আমাদের সংখ্যানুপাত অনুসারে যতগুলি চাকরি আমাদের জন্য reserve করা উচিত

ছিল তার চেয়ে অনেক কম করা হোয়েছে। আমরা বাংলাদেশের জনসংখ্যার শতকরা ২০ জন কিন্তু, আমাদের মাত্র শতকরা ১৫টি চাকরি দেবার কথা গভর্ণমেণ্ট স্বীকার করেছেন।

এই প্রসঙ্গে একটা কথা বোলতে চাই যে এরূপ ভাবে Service Rules frame করা হোয়েছে যাতে বলা হোয়েছে যদি Scheduled Caste থেকে উপযুক্ত candidate পাওয়া যায় তবেই তাহাকে চাকরিতে নেওয়া হবে। এই Rule দ্বারা আমাদের স্বার্থের ক্ষতি হোচ্ছে। কারণ উপযুক্ত কথাটার ব্যাখ্যা করা যায় না। কেউ বা Matric পাশ কোরে তার আত্মীয়-স্বজনের কাছে উপযুক্ত বিবেচিত হ'ন, আর কেউ বা M. A. পাশ কোরেও ব্যক্তি বিশেষের কাছে উপযুক্ত বিবেচিত হোতে পারেন না। কাজেই উপযুক্ত কথাটার কোন মাপকাঠি নাই। যার উপর উপযুক্ততা নির্দ্ধারণের ভার থাকে তাঁর মনের অবস্থার দিক দিয়ে উপযুক্ততা, অনুপযুক্ততার বিচার হয়। Ruleএর মধ্যে এই clauseটি থাকার দরুণ আমরা অনেক সময় চাকরিতে সুবিধা পাই না। এমন অনেক officer আছেন যাঁহারা আমাদের জাতির আশা আকাঙ্খার প্রতি সম্পূর্ণ সহানুভূতি শূন্য। তাঁহারা অনেক সময়ই আইনের ফাঁকি দিয়া আমাদের দাবী নষ্ট করবার চেষ্টা কোরেছেন। অনেক যায়গায় যেখানে আমাদের চাকরী হওয়া উচিত ছিল সেখানে উপযুক্ত গুণাবলী নাই এই অজুহাতে আমাদের চাকরী দেওয়া হয় নাই। এই প্রসঙ্গে একটি কথা বলা যেতে পারে যে, গভর্ণমেণ্ট Rule অনুসারে যে ক্ষেত্রে আমাদের communityর একজন লোকের উপযুক্ত গুণাবলী না থাকার জন্য চাকরি হইতে বঞ্চিত হয় সেই ক্ষেত্রে একজন Caste Hinduর চাকরি হোতে পারে। একারণ এই Ruleএর অপপ্রয়োগের যথেষ্ট সম্ভাবনা থাকে। কাজেই এই Ruleএর পরিবর্ত্তন হওয়া দরকার। এইরূপ ভাবে Rule হওয়া দরকার যাতে আমাদের community থেকে কোন চাকরীর জন্য প্রয়োজনীয় minimum qualification এর লোক পাওয়া গেলে authorities তাকে চাকরি দিতে বাধ্য থাকবেন।

অনেক যায়গায় আবার competitionএর কথা ওঠে। কিন্তু, যে জাতিকে চিরকাল হাত পা ভেঙ্গে পঙ্গু কোরে রাখা হোয়েছে আজ সেই জাতিকে দৌড়ের প্রতি-যোগিতায় আহ্বান করা মানে তাকে ঠাট্টা করা মাত্র। এতে তাদের উপর সম্পূর্ণ অবিচার করা হয়। Suitability ইর ধূয়া তুলে অনেক সময় আমাদের স্বার্থ নষ্ট করবার ব্যবস্থা হোয়েছে,—অবশ্য একথা স্বীকার্য্য যে Governmentএর এ উদ্দেশ্য ছিল না। আশা করি Government এই phraseটা Service Rule থেকে তুলে দেবেন।

তারপর অনেক Departmentএ চাকরি খালি হয় অথচ সেগুলি সম্বন্ধে কোন advertisement হয় না। ভালভাবে যদি advertisement করা হয় আমার নিশ্চিত বিশ্বাস আমাদের community থেকে যথেষ্ট সংখ্যক উপযুক্ত লোক এই সব postএর জন্য apply কোরতে পারে। কাজেই প্রত্যেক post এর জন্য,—সে ছোট হোক, বড় হোক—যথারীতি advertisement করা উচিৎ।

অনেক যায়গায় বাংলার বাইরে থেকে লোক আনা হয়। বহু constable বাইরে থেকে আনা হয়। আমাদের communityএর লোকের শক্তি এবং সাহস যথেষ্ট আছে। এই সমস্ত লোককে যদি চাকরি দেওয়া হয়, তাহ'লে এরা Governmentকে যথেষ্ট পরিমাণে সাহায্য কোর্ত্তে পারে। আর একটা বিষয়ে আমি Governmentএর দৃষ্টি আকর্ষণ কোরছি। Public Service Commissionএ আমাদের communityর কোন লোক নাই। অনেক সময় কোন কোন postএ লোক নেবার জন্য Selection Board গঠিত হয়। এই বোর্ডে আমাদের লোক না থাকার জন্য আমাদের সম্প্রদায়ের প্রার্থীদের প্রতি সময় সময় অবিচার হয়ে থাকে। এই সকল Board ও Service Commissionএ আমাদের সম্প্রদায়ের প্রতিনিধি থাকা প্রয়োজন।

তারপর census উপলক্ষ কোরে আমাদের communityর যথেষ্ট ক্ষতির ব্যবস্থা করা হোয়েছে। আমাদের অধিকাংশ লোককে census এ জাতির পরিচয় হতে বঞ্চিত করা হোয়েছে ফলে Scheduled Casteএর লোক সংখ্যা census report এ যথেষ্ট কম হয়ে যাবে। এর ভিতরকার উদ্দেশ্য হোচেচ চাকরি বাকরি ব্যাপারে এবং ভবিষ্যতের রাজনৈতিক ক্ষেত্রে আমাদের ন্যায্য অধিকার থেকে আমাদের বঞ্চিত করার চেষ্টা (cries of "shame, shame") কিন্তু, আমরা দেখাতে পারবো যে এবারকার census মিথ্যা হোয়েছে। আমাদের communityর স্বার্থ নষ্ট করার জন্য deliberately এরূপ করা হোয়েছে। এই দিকে আমি Governmentএর দৃষ্টি আকর্ষণ কোরছি এবং Governmentএর নিকট অনুরোধ জ্ঞাপন কোরছি যে গভর্ণমেণ্টের প্রত্যেক বিভাগেই যেন আমাদের communityর স্বার্থ রক্ষা করার যথেষ্ট ব্যবস্থা হয়।

Mr. ANUKUL CHANDRA DAS: Mr Speaker, Sir, I consider the subject very important for further discussion and my discussion will be regarding recruitment of Scheduled Castes in the Bengal Civil Service and Bengal Judicial Civil Service cadres.

Recruitment begins with the nomination by the college authorities. Now, in the matter of nomination, so far as the Scheduled Castes are concerned, they do not get their proper share. The college authorities are to nominate a certain number of candidates for Bengal Civil Service Fxamination. I know of several instances in which the Scheduled Caste candidates have not been taken. For example, I refer to Ripon College. There were five or six candidates, but only one was selected and that also not on merit, but at the discretion of the Governing Body. In this matter we are in great difficulty. The reason is that unless we have got a large number of candidates, the ratio that has been fixed for us will be filled up by non-Scheduled Castes. So, it is to the interest of the college authorities not to nominate the Scheduled Caste candidates as far as possible. Sir. I know of another instance in which although a candidate of the Scheduled Castes passed B.A.

with distinction he was not nominated. So, our request to Government will be that the Director of Public Instruction be specially authorised to see that the Scheduled Caste candidates are properly nominated for Bengal Civil Service Examination.

Next, Sir, in the Board of Examiners there is no member of the Scheduled Castes. I do not understand why no Scheduled Caste examiners have been appointed at all. If the Scheduled Castes people can be appointed as examiners of B.A. and B.L., it is an anomaly to us why they are not found fit to be on the Board of Examiners for the Bengal Civil Service. We request the Government to make proper arrangements so that we can have our members on the Board of Examiners.

Then, Sir, after the written examination the candidates are to appear for a *viva voce* examination. In the matter of *viva voce* examination all the candidates are not sent but only some of them who have sat for the written examination are sent up. We sumbit, Sir, that as we are very backward, special privileges should be given to us so that all our candidates who sit for the written examination may be allowed for *viva voce* examination.

Then again, Sir, in the Board of *viva voce* examination formerly the Hon'ble Mr. M. B. Mullick was there, but after he has been a Minister we are without any one on the Board of *viva voce* examination. We request the Government that there should be one of our community on the Board of *viva voce* examination so that our interests are safeguarded. As one of the members was taken from our community before, I do not understand why we should be excluded from that privilege.

Next, Sir, I come to the Medical Board. In the Medical Board vagaries have often been made. We have been pointing out for several years that in the Medical Board some fit candidates of the Scheduled Castes were disqualified. I know of one candidate at least who had been disqualified by the Medical Board, but afterwards he was examined by several physicians including one Civil Surgeon and he was found to be in perfectly good health. We submit that the Board should be constituted in such a manner and with such members as to inspire confidence in the people. Unless the people have got confidence in them, they are of no effect. The Board should be constituted in such a way that there are people in it who command the confidence of the people.

With these words, Sir, I would request the Government, as we are in great difficulty in the matter of Bengal Civil Service Examinations, to do something so that our students can appear at these examinations without any difficulty.

The Hon'ble Mr. A. K. FAZLUL HUQ: Sir, the debates have centered round motions Nos. 2, 4 and 19. I will now reply very briefly to the points that have been raised.

As regards motion No. 2, I find that there has been a general indictment of Government policy regarding administration. My friend Mr. Sanyal has begun by saying that the press has been maimed and muzzled and there is hardly anything like free expression of public opinion at the present moment in Bengal. I will not mention names, because that would be giving undue prominence to newspapers which do not deserve to be taken notice of, but, Sir, I will ask my friend Mr. Sanyal to read the effusions of the vernacular press and to tell me if he can conceive of any province but Bengal where such writings could have been tolerated even for a moment.

Now, Sir, my friend has referred to the question of music before mosque and very naively suggested that it is this Government which has practically revived a very controversial question. I do not know if my friend can point out any instance in which the present Government has been obstructive. It is very easy to make a general charge, but I can tell the House that on every occasion when the question of music before mosque came up, we have tried to be not merely tolerant to the views of non-Muslims, but in many cases have taken decisions which have been resented by Muslims as showing undue forbearance in favour of a particular community.

Mr. SASANKA SEKHAR SANYAL: Question!

The Hon'ble Mr. A. K. FAZLUL HUQ: You may question. I know you will never agree with me because that is fundamental. I am here to reply to the charges that have been made. If you agree with me, then there will be no opposition. Opposition means that you do not agree with me. So, you need not remind me that you do not agree with me.

Only the other day a trouble arose in Burdwan. I may tell the House that when I came to know of it, I telephoned to the District Magistrate and the Superintendent of Police. They motored all the distance and came to my house, and I had a discussion with them in the presence of Sir Manmathanath Mookerji. I may tell the House that although the District Magistrate was not in favour of the proposition which was put forward by my Hindu friends, I suggested and afterwards I succeeded in bringing about a compromise completely in accordance with the wishes of my Hindu friends. I can also tell the House that whatever may be thought of the present Government, there is no civilized human-being who would take delight in thwarting religious processions and ceremonies of other people. Nothing is to be gained by our objecting to or thwarting religious processions. But

what happens is that in many places people who should have known better avoid ordinary routes and take a circuitous route in order to pass by a mosque with the sole object of asserting what they call their right. Now that is something which I cannot understand. However I do not propose to dilate on that point. But I can assure my friends that nothing is further from our thoughts than to do anything which would appear to interfere with the religious rights or ceremonies of any community in this country, and at present and in the future we will always do our best to meet the wishes of all communities subject to our fundamental responsibility for the maintenance of peace and good government in the province.

Now, Sir, I was reminded of my election pledges and of my failure to bring about anything in the shape of reduction of rent. The next election is coming and when it comes, my failure to keep my election pledges would be definitely placed before the country, and I am quite prepared to face it with my election pledges in my hand—what I pledged to do and what I have done. If I am found wanting, I shall accept the sentence cheerfully. Therefore, it is no use saying here that I have made pledges which I have not been able to fulfil.

As regards motion No. 4, regarding necessity of freedom of holding meetings to discuss parliamentary matters and to carry on election party propaganda, just a couple of hours ago I answered a question on this point concerning some happenings in Faridpur. Government made the position clear in two circulars which were placed on the Library table. It would be found from those circulars that all that the Government wanted to do was to prevent discussion in public which might lead to breach of the peace or to interference with the maintenance of public tranquillity. District officers have got certain special responsibilities, and it is only in the exercise of those responsibilities that they have been led to pass certain orders to which exception has been taken. We realise that when restrictions are imposed, they do in some places and in some cases interfere with the rights which have been enjoyed from before and therefore they are naturally resented. But we always try to moderate our orders in such a way as to cause the least friction with the public opinion. I can assure the House that whenever any specific cases are brought to our notice, we will be prepared to give revised instructions to District Magistrates in order that the public wishes may be met to the fullest extent. There is no intention on the part of the Government to stifle criticism. We gain nothing by it and, as a matter of fact, we should always be ready, as we are always ready, to invite criticism. But what we do not wish is a mis-statement of facts or any agitation which may lead to public disorder and discontent. In this connection I may mention a word about the meetings in connection with jute regulations and jute restrictions. The House knows that we are definitely pledged and committed

to the policy of restriction. If at the present moment when so much depends on the successful policy of restriction meetings are held prohibiting people from obeying Government orders, a situation arises in which Government are bound to intervene, but even in doing that we are prepared to restrict the orders only to specific points at issue, namely, restricting people from carrying on agitation and permitting District Magistrates to carry out the orders of Government. We will go no further. And it depends on the leaders of public opinion to regulate meetings to such an extent and in such a manner that there will be no discussion of any subject likely to disturb the public peace or to disobey any Government order or to disturb the communal harmony in the province——

Mr. SHAHEDALI: On a point of information, Sir——

Mr. SPEAKER: Not now, but after the Hon'ble the Chief Minister has finished.

The Hon'ble Mr. A. K. FAZLUL HUQ: Sir, I would like to say a few words especially in relation to the remarks about our failure to give effect to the communal ratio in the services fixed for the Scheduled Caste candidates. In this connection I would like the House to bear in mind certain relevant facts. The Government decision was arrived at in August, 1939, and a special officer was appointed in October, 1939, to look after the proper working of the communal ratio rules. Then rules for implementing the Government decision were framed and published in the middle of April, 1940, and the instructions for the preparation of half-yearly returns were sent out to the appointing authorities in May, 1940. Previous to that, appointments were being made haphazardly and in many cases not strictly in accordance with the intentions of Government The difficulty about our Scheduled Caste friend is this, that in the past they had practically no representation in the public services. Now it is found that on an average there is not more than about 4 per cent. of vacancies in a cadre. Of this the Mussalmans will get one-half, and the Scheduled Castes only ·6 per cent. of the cadre. Supposing there are five vacancies, it will be difficult to adjust the proportion. It so happens that we have to wait long before we can make up this ratio of 15 per cent. which has been allotted to our Scheduled Caste friends It will take some time before the Scheduled Castes will get their proper representation in the services. But at the present moment the special officer has got definite directions to see that in no case where it is possible to appoint a Scheduled Caste candidate according to the rules, should an appointment go to other candidates. I hope the Scheduled Caste members of this House will co-operate with ourselves by bringing to our notice specific instances in which Scheduled Caste candidates have been deliberately passed over, and we can assure the House that we shall try

first of all to accommodate our Scheduled Caste friends, because they deserve more protection than any body else. And I would further say that we give greater attention to the Scheduled Castes than to the other communities.

As regards the other speeches, no new points have been raised, and what I have said generally would apply to them also.

With these words, Sir, I beg to oppose all the motions.

Mr. SHAHEDALI: May I know of the Hon'ble the Chief Minister as to whether there is no unqualified order issued by the District Magistrate of Tippera regarding the prohibition of meetings to discuss about parliamentary matters.

The Hon'ble Mr. A. K. FAZLUL HUQ: I think the information that is now available shows that our friend and his associates were inciting people to break the law and acting in a way which was in contravention of the Regulation Act. It was impossible for the District Magistrate to ignore such conduct, and it is on that account that that order has been passed.

The motion of Mr. Sasanka Sekhar Sanyal that the demand of Rs. 1,27,00,000 for expenditure under the head "25—General Administration" be reduced by Rs. 100, was then put and a division taken, with the following result:—

AYES—40.

Abdul Hakeem, Mr.
Abdul Wahed, Maulvi.
Abul Fazl, Mr. Md.
Ahmed Khan, Mr. Syed.
Aslimuddin Ahmed, Mr.
Barma, Babu Premhari.
Barman, Babu Shyama Prosad.
Basu, Mr. Santosh Kumar.
Bhawmik, Dr. Gobinda Chandra.
Biswas, Babu Lakshmi Narayan.
Biswas, Mr. Surendra Nath.
Bose, Mr. Sarat Chandra.
Das, Mr. Monmohan.
Das Gupta, Babu Khagendra Nath.
Das Gupta, Srijut Narendra Nath.
Dutta Mazumdar, Mr. Niharendu.
Giasuddin Ahmed, Mr.
Gupta, Mr. J. N.
Hasan Ali Chowdhury, Mr. Syed.
Jalaluddin Hashemy, Mr. Syed.
Jonab Ali Majumdar, Maulvi.
Kundu, Mr. Nishitha Nath.
Maji, Mr. Adwaita Kumar.
Majumdar, Mrs. Hemaprova.
Mandal, Mr. Amrita Lal.
Mandal, Mr. Jogendra Nath.
Maniruzzaman Islamabadi, Maulana Md.
Maqbul Hosain, Mr.
Naskar, Mr. Hem Chandra.
Ramizuddin Ahmed, Mr.
Roy, Mr. Charu Chandra.
Roy, Mr. Manmatha Nath.
Sanyal, Mr. Sasanka Sekhar.
Sen, Mr. Atul Chandra.
Shahedali, Mr.
Shamsuddin Ahmed, Mr. M.
Singha, Babu Kshetra Nath.
Thakur, Mr. Pramatha Ranjan.
Waliur Rahman, Maulvi.
Zaman, Mr. A. M. A.

NOES—91.

Abdul Aziz, Maulana Md.
Abdul Hafiz, Mr. Mia.
Abdul Hakim, Maulvi.
Abdul Hakim Vikrampuri, Maulvi Md.
Abdul Hamid, Mr. A. M.
Abdul Karim, Mr.
Abdul Majid, Mr. Syed.
Abdul Wahab Khan, Mr.
Abdulla-al Mahmood, Mr.
Abdur Rahman Siddiqi, Mr.
Abdur Rasheed, Maulvi Md.
Abdul Motaleb Malik, Dr.

Abdur Rauf, Khan Bahadur Shah.
Abdur Razzak, Maulvi.
Abul Hashim, Maulvi.
Abul Quasem, Maulvi.
Ahmed Ali Enayetpuri, Khan Bahadur Maulana.
Ahmed Ali Mridha, Maulvi.
Ahmed Hosain, Mr.
Alfazuddin Ahmed, Khan Bahadur Maulvi.
Aminullah, Khan Sahib Maulvi.
Amir Ali Mia, Maulvi Md.
Ashrafali, Mr. M.
Aulad Hossain Khan, Khan Bahadur Maulvi.
Azhar Ali, Maulvi.
Birkmyre, Sir Henry, Bart.
Biswas, Mr. Rasik Lal.
Clark, Mr. I. A.
Das, Mr. Anukul Chandra.
Das, Rai Sahib Kirit Bhusan.
Dass, Babu Debendra Nath.
Edbar, Mr. Upendranath.
Farhad Raza Chowdhury, Mr. M.
Farhut Bano Khanam, Begum.
Fazlul Huq, the Hon'ble Mr. A. K.
Fazlul Quadir, Khan Bahadur Maulvi.
Fazlur Rahman, Mr. (Dacca).
Fazlur Rahman, Mr. (Mymensingh).
Gomes, Mr. S. A.
Habibullah, the Hon'ble Nawab K., of Dacca.
Hafizuddin Choudhuri, Maulvi.
Hamiddun Ahmad, Khan Sahib.
Hamilton, Mr. K. A.
Hashem Ali Khan, Khan Bahadur Maulvi.
Hasina Murshed, Mrs., M.B.E.
Hawkings, Mr. R. J.
Hendry, Mr. David.
Heywood, Mr. Rogers.
Hirtzel, Mr. M. A. F.
Idris Ahmed Mia, Maulvi.
Jasimuddin Ahmed, Khan Saheb Maulvi.
Kabiruddin Khan, Khan Bahadur Maulvi.
Kazem Ali, Mirza, Sahibzada Kawan Jah Syed.
Kennedy, Mr. I. G.
McGregor, Mr. G. G.
Mandal, Mr. Birat Chandra.
Mandal, Mr. Jagat Chandra.
Maniruddin Akhand, Maulvi.
Mohammed Ali, Khan Bahadur.
Moslem Ali Mollah, Maulvi M.
Muhammad Afzal, Khan Bahadur Maulvi Syed.
Muhammad Israil, Maulvi.
Muhammad Siddique, Khan Bahadur Dr. Syed.
Mullick, the Hon'ble Mr. Mukunda Behary.
Mullick, Mr. Pulin Behary.
Musharruff Hossain, the Hon'ble Nawab, Khan Bahadur.
Mustagawsal Haque, Mr. Syed.
Nandy, the Hon'ble Maharaja Srischandra, of Cossimbazar.
Nasarullah, Nawabzada K.
Patton, Mr. W. C
Rahman, Khan Bahadur A. M. L.
Raikut, the Hon'ble Mr. Prasanna Deb.
Razaur Rahman Khan, Mr.
Roy, Mr. Dhananjoy.
Roy, Mr. Patiram.
Sadaruddin Ahmed, Mr.
Sahebe-Alam, Mr. Syed.
Salim, Mr. S. A.
Sarkar, Babu Madhusudan.
Serajul Islam, Mr.
Shahabuddin, Mr. Khwaja, C.B.E.
Speller Mr. J. H.
Sinclair, Mr. J. F.
Sirdar, Babu Litta Munda.
Smith, Mr. H. Brabant.
Steven, Mr. J. W. R.
Suhrawardy, the Hon'ble Mr. H. S.
Stark, Mr. A. F.
Tamizuddin Khan, the Hon'ble Mr.
Wordsworth, Mr. W. C.
Yusuf Ali Choudhury, Mr.

The Ayes being 40, and the Noes 91, the motion was lost.

The motion of Maulvi Jonab Ali Majumdar that the demand of Rs. 1,27,00,000 for expenditure under the head "25—General Administration" be reduced by Rs. 100 was then put and a division taken with the following result:—

AYES—37.

Abdul Wahed, Maulvi.
Abul Fazl, Mr. Md.
Ahmed Khan, Mr. Syed.
Azimuddin Ahmed, Mr.
Barma, Babu Premhari.
Barman, Babu Shyama Prosad.
Basu, Mr. Santosh Kumar.
Bhowmik, Dr. Gobinda Chandra.
Biswas, Babu Lakshmi Narayan.
Biswas, Mr. Surendra Nath.
Bose, Mr. Sarat Chandra.
Das, Mr. Monmohan.
Das Gupta, Babu Khagendra Nath.
Dutta Mazumdar, Mr. Niharendu.
Giasuddin Ahmed, Mr.
Gupta, Mr. J. N.
Hasan Ali Chowdhury, Mr. Syed.
Jalaluddin Hashemy, Mr. Syed.
Jonab Ali Majumdar, Maulvi.
Kundu, Mr. Nishitha Nath.
Maji, Mr. Adwaita Kumar.
Majumdar, Mrs. Hemaprova.
Mandal, Mr. Jogendra Nath.
Maniruzzaman Islamabadi, Maulana Md.
Maqbul Hosain, Mr.
Naskar, Mr. Hem Chandra.
Ramizuddin Ahmed, Mr.
Roy, Mr. Charu Chandra.

Roy, Mr. Manmatha Nath.
Sanyal, Mr. Sasanka Sekhar.
Sen, Mr. Atul Chandra.
Shahedali, Mr.
Shamsuddin Ahmed, Mr. M.
Singha, Babu Kshetra Nath.
Thakur, Mr. Pramatha Ranjan.
Waliur Rahman, Maulvi.
Zaman, Mr. A. M. A.

NOES—89.

Abdul Aziz, Maulana Md.
Abdul Hafiz, Mr. Mia.
Abdul Hakim, Maulvi.
Abdul Hakim Vikrampuri, Maulvi Md.
Abdul Hamid, Mr. A. M.
Abdul Karim, Mr.
Abdul Majid, Mr. Syed.
Abdul Wahab Khan, Mr.
Abdullah-Al Mahmood, Mr.
Abdur Rahman Siddiqi, Mr.
Abdur Rasheed, Maulvi Md.
Abdul Motaleb Malik, Dr.
Abdur Rauf, Khan Bahadur Shah.
Abul Hashim, Maulvi.
Abul Quasem, Maulvi.
Ahmed Ali Enayetpuri, Khan Bahadur Maulana.
Ahmed Ali Mridha, Maulvi.
Ahmed Hosain, Mr.
Aftazuddin Ahmed, Khan Bahadur Maulvi.
Aminullah, Khan Sahib Maulvi.
Amir Ali Mia, Maulvi Md.
Ashrafali, Mr. M.
Aulad Hossain Khan, Khan Bahadur Maulvi.
Azhar Ali, Maulvi.
Birkmyre, Sir Henry, Bart.
Biswas, Mr. Rasik Lal.
Clark, Mr. I. A.
Das, Mr. Anukul Chandra.
Das, Rai Sahib Kirit Bhusan.
Dass, Babu Debendra Nath.
Farhad Raza Chowdhury, Mr. M.
Farhat Bano Khanam, Begum.
Fazlul Huq, the Hon'ble Mr. A. K.
Fazlul Quadir, Khan Bahadur Maulvi.
Fazlur Rahman, Mr. (Dacca).
Fazlur Rahman, Mr. (Mymensingh).
Gomes, Mr. S. A.
Habibullah, the Hon'ble Nawab Bahadur K., of Dacca.
Hafizuddin Choudhuri, Maulvi.
Hamiduddin Ahmed, Khan Sahib.
Hamilton, Mr. K. A.
Hashem Ali Khan, Khan Bahadur Maulvi.
Hasina Murshed, Mrs. M.B.E.
Hendry, Mr. David.
Heywood, Mr. Rogers.
Hirtzel, Mr. M. A. F.
Idris Ahmed Mia, Maulvi.
Ispahani, Mr. M. A. H.
Jasimuddin Ahmed, Khan Saheb Maulvi.
Kabiruddin Khan, Khan Bahadur Maulvi.
Kazem Ali Mirza, Sahibzada Kawan Jah Syed.
Kennedy, Mr. I. G.
McGregor, G. G.
Mandal, Mr. Birat Chandra.
Mandal, Mr. Jagat Chandra.
Maniruddin Akhand, Maulvi.
Mohammed Ali, Khan Bahadur.
Moslem Ali Mollah, Maulvi M.
Muhammad Afzal, Khan Bahadur Maulvi Syed.
Muhammad Israil, Maulvi.
Muhammad Siddique, Khan Bahadur Dr. Syed.
Mullick, the Hon'ble Mr. Mukunda Behary.
Mullick, Mr. Pulin Behary.
Musharruff Hossain, the Hon'ble Nawab, Khan Bahadur.
Mustagawsal Haque, Mr. Syed.
Nandy, the Hon'ble Maharaja Srischandra, of Cossimbazar.
Nasarullah, Nawabzada K.
Patton, Mr. W. C.
Rahman, Khan Bahadur A. M. L.
Raikut, the Hon'ble Mr. Prasanna Deb.
Razaur Rahman Khan, Mr.
Roy, Mr. Dhananjoy.
Roy, Mr. Patiram.
Sadaruddin Ahmed, Mr.
Sahebe-Alam, Mr. Syed.
Salim, Mr. S. A.
Sarkar, Babu Madhusudan.
Serajul Islam, Mr.
Shahabuddin, Mr. Khwaja, C.B.E.
Speller, Mr. J. H.
Sinclair, Mr. J. F.
Sirdar, Babu Litta Munda.
Smith, Mr. H. Brabant.
Steven, Mr. J. W. R.
Suhrawardy, the Hon'ble Mr. H. S.
Stark, Mr. A. F.
Tamizuddin Khan, the Hon'ble Mr.
Wordsworth, Mr. W. C.
Yusuf Ali Choudhury, Mr.

The Ayes being 37 and the Noes 89, the motion was lost.

The motion of Babu Premhari Barma that the demand of Rs. 1,27,00,000 under the head "25—General Administration" be reduced by Rs. 100, was then put and lost.

Mr. MANMATHA NATH RAY: Sir, I beg to move that the demand of Rs. 1,27,00,000 under the head "25—Administration" be reduced by Rs. 100. The purpose of my motion is to discuss the policy regarding retrenchment and the steps to be taken to effect it.

During the last four years, we have pressed the importance and the urgency of retrenchment, but we have failed to produce any impression on the Government. The present Government is now approaching the end of its tenure of office, and yet it has not been able to make up its mind or to apply the retrenchment axe with courage. It is often said by the Treasury Benches that we do not propose any constructive suggestions, and I propose to make certain constructive suggestions.

Sir, we have been insistent on the abolition of the posts of the Divisional Commissioners. These posts were created at a time when there was a Lieutenant-Governor with only a few Secretaries. The Mukherji Retrenchment Committee recommended their abolition long, long ago. When these posts are abolished, the work may very easily be done by the long array of Ministers and the long array of their Secretaries, Deputy Secretaries and Assistant Secretaries.

The Board of Revenue should be abolished and its work taken over by a Minister in addition to his own duties.

The posts of the Director of Public Instruction and the Secretary to the Government in the Education Department could be combined in one.

Now, Sir, I make the very important proposal that there need be no further recruitment to the Indian Civil Service. The officers of the Bengal Civil Services—I mean the Provincial Services—who have held posts generally allotted to the members of the Indian Civil Service have worked with devotion, zeal, ability and efficiency, and although there might have been need for recruitment from outside in the past, there is no necessity for such recruitment now. The Hon'ble Chief Minister is not here, but still I shall have to refer to a relevant remark which he made at the last discussion under the head "General Administration" in connection with the present proposal. The Hon'ble Premier is the tiger and lion (and both combined) of this country, but it is refreshing to find him uttering the following words:—

> "The only point to be considered is whether we should have highly paid officers"—then note the words, "whether we can manage the work with lesser paid officials, namely, indigenous articles and not people imported from outside."

I hope that the Hon'ble Chief Minister will translate his thought into action. He need not be in any way afraid of the European Block. He may, on the other hand, get the support of the European Block in that connection, because they have held the trusteeship for a long time, and it is time that the trusteeship is given up. I would ask him to move the proper authorities for the necessary order. Even if he finds any difficulty, we hope that the Government will face it.

I find that the charged item in this department—and that is the salary of the members of the Indian Civil Service—amounts to Rs. 36,81,000, and this taken with similar items in other departments will be a considerable sum. I now find in the same department that the Government have made a serious blunder by taking away the service of notice under section 26(c) of the Bengal Tenancy Act from the Sub-Registrar and vesting the work in the Collector. That led immediately to an increase in expenditure to the extent of Rs. 1,20,000. The Sub-Registrars are quite competent to do this small work of service of notice on the transferee and the increased expenditure cannot but be a waste of public money.

Then, the maximum salary of new entrants to the Bengal Civil Service should be brought to level with the scale which is prevalent in other provinces, say in Madras. The maximum salary in Bengal is greater than that in Madras.

The sale of judicial stamps has come down from Rs. 2,06,73,000 in 1937-38 to Rs. 1,75,00,000 this year, and you have either to reduce the number or the salary of your judicial officers.

The discretionary grants have been raised from Rs. 2,77,000 to Rs. 3,41,000. We all know that in many cases these grants are made not on their merits, but on other extraneous considerations.

The Government have provided for the reorganisation of the Rural Reconstruction Department and the Cinchona Department expenditure of Rs. 1,18,000 and Rs. 1,54,926 respectively. There is enough of supervision already there. What we want now is real rural reconstruction work and not supervision. We also want an intensive production of cinchona and not highly paid officers who will come into the reorganised department.

Under civil works, the proposed new buildings are responsible for a provision of about Rs. 23 lakhs. These can wait till normal times. I have not touched on communications because they really belong to the nation-building department. My objection is only to new buildings. The proposed repairs are responsible for a provision of Rs. 47,80,000; obviously this may be curtailed.

Of the various recommendations of the Swan Committee, recommendations amounting to about Rs. 70,00,000 have yet to be considered, and I would ask Government to let us know what items have been considered since our last budget.

Then provision has also been made of Rs. 24,00,000 for jute regulation and registration operations—operations against which strenuous opposition was advanced from this side of the House. This inflated budget has been presented, as we have said on many occasions in the near past, only to provide an excuse for the unbearable burdens of new taxation which Government has brought forward. I would now

ask the Hon'ble Ministers of this province to see what the Government of Assam have done under similar circumstances. In Assam, the Government have this year a deficit budget, and I find that they have made an attempt to meet the deficit by effecting retrenchment. This is what I read from the printed statement——

The Hon'ble Mr. H. S. SUHRAWARDY: What is the extent of their deficit?

Mr. MANMATHA NATH ROY: I admit the deficit is not much, but all the same I wish to note the sympathy and the anxious consideration of their Finance Minister: "In the absence of any other measure of taxation due to the deplorable economic condition of the people"—and this is what he feels, and I hope our Ministers could feel like that—"the only other means of meeting this deficit is by retrenchment"—and I draw your attention to it from this side of the House.

In 1937 and again in 1938, the then Finance Minister and also the Hon'ble the Chief Minister promised that they would hold a conference of the different parties of this House and discuss round the table on what items and in what manner retrenchment could be effected. Although that promise was made on two different occasions, nothing has been done. If he had called that conference, that might have been an acid test of their sincerity, but the promise was broken and the promise has not been renewed.

The position that you hold here is one of sacred trust. You must give up your old grooves, and with a new outlook, determination, courage and grit proceed to reduce your expenditure. That is the only way to national reconstruction. You may have to make some sacrifices to strike the imagination of your officers and in order to make it easier for you to effect retrenchment. And I do not admit your claim that the Ministers of this province do not draw more than what the ex-Congress Ministers used to draw in the Congress provinces on account of their salary and the allowances taken together.

Four years ago you approached your constituencies and they looked upon you as their *ma-bap*, and you promised them *dal-bhat*, but you have undergone a wonderful transformation. You have not given them *dal-bhat*. You have now ceased to be the *ma-bap* of your constituencies, but you are now the *ma-bap* of your highly paid officers. Now, what do you propose to do when you have to meet your constituencies very soon again, possibly during the end of this year. It may or may not happen. But in case you have to meet them, what position would you take up again? You will have again to take up the pose of their *ma-bap* and you will again have to promise them *dal-bhat* by undergoing another wonderful transformation, but your constituencies know what value to attach to your words.

Mr. SYED MUSTAGAWSAL HAQUE: Mr. Speaker, I do not want to inflict a long speech, and I do not want to press my cut motion to vote. The question raised by Mr. Manmatha Nath Roy is just the same as I want to raise. Mr. Speaker, with the introduction of Provincial Autonomy we found a year of peace and prosperity in Bengal, but unfortunately due to costly administration, money required for nation-building activities is always wanting. Mr. Speaker, this Government—the Government of the people, by the people and for the people—has done much to improve the lot of the agriculturists by passing various beneficent legislations, but for want of funds they have not been able to do much nation-building work. At a time when our people cannot procure two square meals a day, when the dead and dying rivers require immediate resuscitation, when for want of funds free primary education cannot be introduced simultaneously in all the districts of Bengal, we cannot afford to maintain the luxury of a costly administration in this province. The time has certainly come when we must demand a drastic reduction in expenditure. I shall take up some of the points under "General Administration". First of all, I shall deal with the Secretariat. The Secretaries and other officers of the Secretariat have increased enormously In the pre-Reform days, while there were only a little more than half-a-dozen Secretaries to run the administration, now we find 25 to 35 officers of the same status in the Secretariat. If we consult the Civil List, we find that there are as many as 23 Secretaries in the different departments. In the Home, Finance and Revenue Departments we find that there are Secretaries, Additional Secretaries, Deputy Secretaries, Additional Deputy Secretaries, Under Secretaries and Additional Under Secretaries, Special Officers, Second Special Officers, Third Special Officers, etc. Mr. Speaker, we find that there are as many as eleven Special Officers for three or four departments of the Secretariat. We may admit that the volume of work has increased to a great extent, but we cannot support that the number of officers be increased to such an extent. The quality and quantity of work in the Secretariat have not at all improved. On the other hand, we find, Sir, that even the officers in the Secretariat are so negligent of their duties that sometimes even the files are missing from the Secretariat and many reports of the Select Committee and other necessary papers are not found and that sometimes for want of time the reports are not ready. All these things are before us. So, I do not think there is any justification in increasing the number of Secretaries and officers in the Secretariat.

Then, Sir, I shall come to the subject of the post of Commissioner. The post of Commissioner was created at a time when Bengal, Bihar, Orissa and Assam were one province under a Lieutenant-Governor, but now there are four provinces and the post of Commissioner is not at all necessary at this time. They rather stand in the way of speedy

execution of work. Their work is like that of a post office. Commissioners should serve as a connecting link between district offices and the Secretariat, but unfortunately the Commissioners hamper the progress of work, and if the post of Commissioner is abolished, about four lakhs of rupees will be saved. Times without number, persistent demands have been made for the abolition of this post both in the press and in the platform, but no action has been taken in this direction. There may be some difficulty, and it may be pointed out that the Commissioners do revenue work and they have got a number of statutory duties which they are to perform. If that be so, these duties may be distributed to District Officers and experienced officers of the Revenue Department. If there is any constitutional difficulty, at least an attempt should be made in this line.

Then I come to the subject of district administration. There also the cost of administration has to a great extent increased. We find that there are about 250 Deputy Magistrates and about 470 Sub-Deputy Magistrates. The Sub-Deputy Magistrates, Sir, do the same sort of work as Deputy Magistrates and with equal efficiency. They undergo the same training and pass through the same examinations, sometimes with higher University degrees. If that be so, I find no reason why the cadre of Deputy Magistrates should be retained. My definite suggestion on this point is that there should be one cadre and the pay of that cadre should be Rs. 125—500. In a poor country like Bengal we cannot afford to pay more than Rs. 500 for our Deputy Magistrates. There should be an immediate revision of the scales of pay of officers. These Sub-Deputy Magistrates do revenue work and sometimes also in the past and nowadays frequently they are invested with first class powers, but unfortunately, Sir, of the two classes of officers coming from the same cadre, coming from the same status in life, passing the same examinations and having the same calibre, one is appointed to a grade of Rs. 250—850 with a selection grade of Rs 1,000, while the other class of officers is appointed to a grade of Rs. 125—450. This sort of invidious distinction in the services has deteriorated the quality of service and there is dissatisfaction in the circle of the Sub-Deputy Magistrates. I would, therefore, suggest that an attempt should be made in this line. Agitation on this line has been going on for the last 20 years, but due to the monopoly of the officers in the Secretariat and the unsympathetic attitude of some of the officers, this attempt has proved unsuccessful up to this time. I believe that if an attempt on this line is made, there would be enough saving under this head.

Now, Sir, I will come to discuss the Publicity Department. I believe that there is absolute necessity for a department like this. When most of the benevolent measures of Government are not published in the press as it is to-day—rather they criticise the attitude of Government—Government should have a press. I fully agree that there should

be a Publicity Department, but as to the cost of this department I cannot support it. This department was started 3 or 4 years back and the cost was Rs. 1 lakh. Now we find that it is more than Rs. 3 lakhs. I would suggest that the cost in this department should be reduced, but I maintain, Sir, that there is necessity for a department like this.

Then there are other departments where the cost has gone up, and I would suggest that an attempt should be made to reduce the cost.

Mr. Speaker, Sir, the time has come when we must demand that Government should make an attempt to reduce the cost of administration and utilize money to be realised for the nation-building departments.

With these words, Sir, I suggest that the cost of administration be reduced.

Adjournment.

It being 8-5 p.m.—

The House was adjourned till 4-45 p.m. on Tuesday, the 11th March, 1941, at the Assembly House, Calcutta.

Proceedings of the Bengal Legislative Assembly assembled under the provisions of the Government of India Act, 1935.

THE ASSEMBLY met in the Assembly House, Calcutta, on Tuesday, the 11th March, 1941, at 4-45 p.m.

Present:

Mr. Speaker (the Hon'ble Sir MUHAMMAD AZIZUL HAQUE, C.I.E., Khan Bahadur) in the Chair, 9 Hon'ble Ministers and 186 members.

STARRED QUESTIONS

(to which oral answers were given)

Rent of the office building of the Calcutta Improvement Trust.

*140. **Maulvi M. MOSLEM ALI MOLLAH:** (*a*) Will the Hon'ble Minister in charge of the Public Health and Local Self-Government Department be pleased to state whether it is a fact that the office of the Calcutta Improvement Trust is located in hired building?

(*b*) If the answer to (*a*) is in the affirmative, will the Hon'ble Minister be pleased to state—

(*i*) the name of the owner or owners of the building;

(*ii*) the amount of rent the Trust have to pay for it; and

(*iii*) whether no acquired building of the Trust can be utilised for the purpose?

MINISTER in charge of the PUBLIC HEALTH and LOCAL SELF-GOVERNMENT DEPARTMENT (the Hon'ble Nawab Khwaja Habibullah Bahadur, of Dacca): (*a*) Yes.

(*b*) (*i*) The South British Insurance Company.

(*ii*) Rs.2,843-7 per mensem inclusive of the Corporation rates and taxes.

(*iii*) No. The Trust seldom acquire a good office building in a central locality except when its demolition is inevitable for the purpose of a scheme.

Mr. SASANKA SEKHAR SANYAL: Will the Hon'ble Minister be pleased to state what has been the total amount of money up to date spent over such monthly rents?

The Hon'ble Nawab Khwaja HABIBULLAH Bahadur, of Dacca: I want notice.

Mr. NIHARENDU DUTTA MAZUMDAR: Will the Hon'ble Minister be pleased to state for how many years the offices of the Improvement Trust have been located in these premises?

The Hon'ble Nawab Khwaja HABIBULLAH Bahadur, of Dacca: These premises have been taken on a lease for 5 years. I do not know for how many years they have been located there.

Mr. NIHARENDU DUTTA MAZUMDAR: Will the Hon'ble Minister be pleased to state on which year were these premises taken on lease?

The Hon'ble Nawab Khwaja HABIBULLAH Bahadur, of Dacca: I want notice.

Mr. SANSANKA SEKHAR SANYAL: Will the Hon'ble Minister be pleased to state whether Government have considered it worth while purchasing or acquiring a building in order to save these inordinate monthly rents?

Mr. SPEAKER: That question does not arise That is a matter for the Improvement Trust and not for the Government.

***141. Mr. SPEAKER:** As the Hon'ble Mr Suhrawardy is absent, this question will stand over for the present

Death of two prisoners in Dinajpur Jail.

***142. Mr. NISHITHA NATH KUNDU:** (*a*) Will the Hon'ble Minister in charge of the Home (Jails) Department be pleased to state whether it is a fact that Rupeshwar Barman and Maniram Barman, two Defence of India Rules convict prisoners, died in the Dinajpur Jail recently in January last?

(*b*) If the answer to (*a*) is in the affirmative, will the Hon'ble Minister be pleased to state—

(*i*) the dates on which they died;

(*ii*) the diseases of which they died;

(*iii*) when they were attacked with the diseases they died of;

(*iv*) when they were admitted into the jail hospital for treatment;

(*v*) whether the relatives of the deceased prisoners were intimated of their illness when it took serious turn; if so, when;

(*vi*) the last dates up till which they were engaged in jail task before admission into the hospital;

(*vii*) what were their task or tasks in the jail;

(*viii*) what were their respective weights when they were first admitted into the jail;

(*ix*) whether their weights were taken last before their death;

(*x*) the dates they were admitted in the jail; and

(*xi*) the dates on which they were convicted?

The Hon'ble Sir BIJOY PRASAD SINGH ROY (on behalf of the Hon'ble Khwaja Sir Nazimuddin, Minister in charge of the Home Department): (*a*) No one with these names was admitted into the Dinajpur Jail under the Defence of India Rules

(*b*) Does not arise

Mr. PREMHARI BARMA: Will the Hon'ble Minister be pleased to state whether there has been any death of any of the Defence of India Rules' prisoners in the Dinajpur Jail?

The Hon'ble Sir BIJOY PRASAD SINGH ROY: No.

Mr. NISHITHA NATH KUNDU: Will the Hon'ble Minister be pleased to state if any prisoners of these names were admitted into the Dinajpur Jail for offences under any Rule or Act other than the Defence of India Rules?

The Hon'ble Sir BIJOY PRASAD SINGH ROY: Yes.

Mr. NISHITHA NATH KUNDU: In view of the reply just now given, will the Hon'ble Minister be pleased to state whether these prisoners are alive or dead?

The Hon'ble Sir BIJOY PRASAD SINGH ROY: They are dead.

Mr. NISHITHA NATH KUNDU: Did they die in the Dinajpur Jail?

The Hon'ble Sir BIJOY PRASAD SINGH ROY: Yes.

Mr. NISHITHA NATH KUNDU: Will the Hon'ble Minister be pleased to state what diseases they died of?

The Hon'be Sir BIJOY PRASAD SINGH ROY: Pneumonia.

Mr. NISHITHA NATH KUNDU: When were they—both of them—attacked by this disease?

Mr. SPEAKER: I think it is only fair to say that this question should have been answered, although these prisoners were not admitted under the Defence of India Rules. The crux of the question was not whether they were admitted under the Defence of India Rules, but whether they died.

The Hon'ble Sir BIJOY PRASAD SINGH ROY: Sir, we thought otherwise. We thought that the crux of the question was the Defence of India Rules, because my honourable friend takes special interest in the Defence of India Rules' prisoners.

Mr. SANSANKA SEKHAR SANYAL: Sir, we are extremely grateful to you——

Mr. SPEAKER: Order, order. I hold that this question should be answered deleting the words "Defence of India Rules."

Classification and allowance of persons dealt with under Defence of India Act Rules.

***143. Dr. SURESH CHANDRA BANERJEE:** (*a*) Will the Hon'ble Minister in charge of the Home (Jails) Department be pleased to state—

(*i*) the number of persons who have up till now been—

(1) externed,

(2) interned,

(3) detained,

(4) convicted, and

(5) imprisoned

under the Defence of India Act Rules; and

(*ii*) whether any allowance has been granted to any of them?

(*b*) If the answer to (*a*) (*ii*) is in the affirmative, will the Hon'ble Minister be pleased to lay on the table a statement showing—

(*i*) to whom the allowance has been given;

(*ii*) the amount given to each; and

(*iii*) the date from which it was given?

(*c*) Will the Hon'ble Minister be pleased to state how many of the convicted and imprisoned persons have been placed in—

(1) Division I;

(2) Division II; and

(3) Division III?

(*d*) Will the Hon'ble Minister be pleased to state what facilities are given to those detained and imprisoned persons as regards reading of newspapers?

(*e*) Are they allowed to read the *Amrita Bazar Patrika*, *Hindusthan Standard*, *Ananda Bazar Patrika* and *Jugantar*?

(*f*) If so, whether they are supplied by the Government?

(*g*) Will the Hon'ble Minister be pleased to state whether there is any restriction, as regards those detained and imprisoned persons, in the matter of interviews and correspondence?

(*h*) If so, what are these restrictions?

The Hon'ble Sir BIJOY PRASAD SINGH ROY: (*a*) (*i*)

(1) 413
(2) 27
(3) 140
(4) 895
} to 31st January, 1941.

(5) Not readily available.

(*ii*) Yes.

(*b*) A statement is laid on the Library table.

(*c*) The labour and time involved in compiling the required information regarding the classification of all the persons imprisoned under the Defence of India Rules *up to now* would not be commensurate with the result. The figures for the actual number of Defence of India Rules prisoners in jail on the 28th January, 1941, are as follows:—

Division I—15.

Division II—65.

Division III—152.

(*d*) to (*f*) Convicted prisoners in Divisions I and II and persons detained under rule 26 of the Defence of India Rules are supplied with the daily *Statesman* and *Azad* and prisoners in Division III with *Banglar Katha* at Government cost. Persons detained under rule 26, Defence of India Rules, may also obtain at their own cost other newspapers as in the list, a copy of which is placed in the Library.

Persons detained under rule 129 of the Defence of India Rules may obtain at their own cost any of the newspapers mentioned in the list, a copy of which is also laid on the Library table.

(*g*) Yes.

(*h*) I am unable to supply the information in the public interest.

Mr. CHARU CHANDRA ROY: Sir, I desire to draw your attention to answer (*c*) given by the Hon'ble Minister where he says that the labour and time involved in compiling the required information regarding the classification of all the persons imprisoned under the Defence of India Rules up to now would not be commensurate with the result. Sir, the Hon'ble Minister is not concerned with the result, but it is we who are concerned with the result, and this opinion we do not want from the Hon'ble Minister.

Mr. SPEAKER: Any way, that is a parliamentary form sanctified by usage.

Mr. SANSANKA SEKHAR SANYAL: This is polite refusal

Mr. SPEAKER: If you insist, then the next answer will be that it is not in the public interest to disclose the information! (Laughter.)

Mr. CHARU CHANDRA ROY: Will the Hon'ble Minister be pleased to state if under rule 617 of the Jail Code these prisoners are entitled to be classified under Division III only.

The Hon'ble Sir BIJOY PRASAD SINGH ROY: Yes, according to the education and status of each person.

Mr. CHARU CHANDRA ROY: Will the Hon'ble Minister be pleased to state what are the educational and status qualifications of these 152 prisoners?

The Hon'ble Sir BIJOY PRASAD SINGH ROY: I ask for notice.

Rules for awarding divisions to convicted and under-trial prisoners.

*144. **Mr. SURENDRA NATH BISWAS:** (*a*) Will the Hon'ble Minister in charge of the Home (Jails) Department be pleased to state whether there are any rules for classifying convicted and under-trial prisoners into divisions?

(*b*) If so, will the Hon'ble Minister be pleased to lay on the table a copy of those rules?

(*c*) Is it a fact that Babus Anukul Chandra Chatterjee, Shyamapada Chakravarty, Anil Kumar Mukherjee, Rohini Kanta Bhattacharjee, Haridas Banerjee, Kartik Chandra Datta, Bogola Prasanna Guha, Makhan Chandra Kar, Kshetra Mohan De and Nityaranjan De who have all been convicted for political offences in the District Court of Faridpur in 1940 have been put in Division III?

(*d*) Is it a fact—

(*i*) that Babu Anukul Chandra Chatterjee who is a Muktear, and a few others among the abovementioned prisoners were put in Division II by the District Magistrate of Faridpur; and

(*ii*) that they were subsequently given Division III under Government Order?

(*e*) If the answer to (*d*) (*ii*) is in the affirmative, will the Hon'ble Minister be pleased to state the reasons thereof?

The Hon'ble Sir BIJOY PRASAD SINGH ROY: (*a*) Yes.

(*b*) The honourable member is referred to rules 617 and 910 of the Bengal Jail Code, Volume I, Seventh Edition, a copy of which is in the Library.

(*c*) Of the persons named, Kshetra Nath De has been convicted for offence under the Bengal Suppression of Terrorist Outrages Act and the remaining nine persons have been convicted under the Defence of India Rules. All of them were placed in Division III.

(*d*) Yes, but Anukul Chandra Chatterjee has since been placed in Division II on a review of his case.

(*e*) Because they were not considered eligible for Division II.

Mr. SURENDRA NATH BISWAS: With reference to answer (*e*), will the Hon'ble Minister be pleased to state who have considered them not to be eligible for Division II?

The Hon'ble Sir BIJOY PRASAD SINGH ROY: Government.

Mr. SURENDRA NATH BISWAS: Will the Hon'ble Minister be pleased to state whether Government are in possession of information as to the education and social status of the nine prisoners except Kshetra Nath De mentioned in question (c)?

The Hon'ble Sir BIJOY PRASAD SINGH ROY: Government did not come to any decision without consideration of all these factors.

Mr. SURENDRA NATH BISWAS: Will the Hon'ble Minister be pleased to state whether Government is aware that this Shyamapada Chakravarty is a graduate and a son of a lawyer practising at Madaripur?

The Hon'ble Sir BIJOY PRASAD SINGH ROY: I ask for notice.

Mr. SURENDRA NATH BISWAS: Will the Hon'ble Minister be pleased to state whether he will ask for notice for such information about other prisoners also as mentioned in question (c)?

The Hon'ble Sir BIJOY PRASAD SINGH ROY: Yes, Sir, I shall.

Mr. SPEAKER: It is not possible for the Hon'ble Minister to keep information in mind about the education and social status of all the 8 or 9 prisoners.

Rai HARENDRA NATH CHAUDHURI: With reference to answer (*d*), will the Hon'ble Minister be pleased to state at whose instance the review of the case was made?

The Hon'ble Sir BIJOY PRASAD SINGH ROY: Government did it on their own initiative.

Rai HARENDRA NATH CHAUDHURI: Will the Hon'ble Minister be pleased to state whether Government is prepared to review the other cases also if sufficient facts are placed before them for placing these prisoners in Division II?

The Hon'ble Sir BIJOY PRASAD SINGH ROY: Yes, Sir.

Outbreak of smallpox epidemic in Bengal.

***145. Mr. JNANENDRA CHANDRA MAJUMDAR:** (*a*) Is the Hon'ble Minister in charge of the Public Health and Local Self-Government Department aware—

(*i*) that late winter and early spring is the time in the year when smallpox breaks out in epidemic form all over Bengal; and

(*ii*) that the present arrangements for inoculating the people of the countryside with anti-pox vaccines fall far short of actual requirements?

(*b*) If so, will the Hon'ble Minister be pleased to state what steps, if any, Government have taken so far, except issuing certain posters, to prevent these outbreaks?

(*c*) Is the Hon'ble Minister considering the desirability and the urgent necessity of sending emergency vaccination squads to the rural areas so as to cover every locality of the Province?

(*d*) Is he aware that there are in vogue in many towns and in the countryside very effective indigenous and special methods of treatment of smallpox?

(*e*) Is he aware that a certain pleader of the Mymensingh bar is well known in his locality for his indigenous method of treatment of smallpox (both preventive and curative), and has published a book dealing with his method of treatment?

(*f*) If the answer to (*d*) is in the affirmative, will the Hon'ble Minister be pleased to take steps to invite and consult the gentleman and others known for their effective method of treatment by indigenous methods in order to co-ordinate and develop their methods in a scientific way?

The Hon'ble Nawab Khwaja HABIBULLAH Bahadur, of Dacca: (*a*) (*i*) There is no definite season for the outbreak of smallpox though it is generally prevalent during winter and spring.

(*ii*) No. There is adequate stock of smallpox vaccine at the Bengal Vaccine Institute which is distributed free to local bodies on demand and the local bodies employ vaccinators according to local conditions.

(*b*) The following steps are taken by the Public Health Department to prevent outbreak of smallpox in an epidemic form:—

(1) grants from provincial revenues are made every year to the local bodies for the promotion of free vaccination in rural areas;

(2) vaccine lymph is supplied to the local bodies free according to their requirements;

(3) vaccinating lancets are also supplied free to local bodies;

(4) whenever and wherever necessary medical licentiates and sanitary inspectors and Special Inspectors of Vaccination are deputed by the Public Health Department to assist local bodies in combating outbreaks of smallpox; and

(5) Smallpox regulations under the Epidemic Diseases Act are enforced whenever occasion demands.

(c) The member is referred to item (4) of the answer given in reply to clause (b). It may also be stated for the information of the member that a comprehensive scheme for accelerating vaccination and revaccination on an extensive scale according to definite programme is under the consideration of Government.

(d) Government are aware that various kinds of indigenous methods of treatment of smallpox are practised in this Province.

(e) Government are aware that one Mr. Nagendra Nath Mazumdar, B.L., of the Mymensingh Bar, carries on practice in his locality under his indigenous method of treatment of smallpox based on the "Ayurvedic system".

As regards the publication of a book by Mr. Mazumdar dealing with his method of treatment Government have no information.

(f) Government will not be justified on the information available in undertaking an investigation of such *methods* of treatment, but on the other hand they will be willing to consider an enquiry into the *nature and effect* of the systems of treatment, provided all materials are placed at their disposal.

Grant-in-aid to Domohoni High English School.

***146. Mr. J. N. GUPTA:** (a) Will the Hon'ble Minister in charge of the Education Department be pleased to state whether he has received a representation from the General Manager, Eastern Bengal Railway, for the increase of the grant-in-aid for Domohoni High English School?

(b) If so, will the Hon'ble Minister be pleased to state what action, if any, has been taken in the matter?

MINISTER in charge of the EDUCATION DEPARTMENT: (the Hon'ble Mr. A. K. Fazlul Huq): (a) Yes.

(b) The school at present gets a grant of Rs.100 per month from this department. It has not been possible to give this school any additional grant out of the small extra lump provision in the current year's budget. Endeavour will, however, be made to give the school such a grant from the additional allotment in the next year's budget.

The Inspector of Schools, Rajshahi Division, is being requested to give this school a lump grant out of savings in his normal allotment during the current year, if possible.

Construction of a road in spill area on the right bank of the Damodar river.

***147. Mr. ADWAITA KUMAR MAJI:** (*a*) Will the Hon'ble Minister in charge of the Communications and Works Department be pleased to state whether Government have issued any order for the construction of the road in spill area on the right side of the Damodar river in continuation of the new Ronald's Road to Arambagh?

(*b*) Is the Hon'ble Minister aware that the non-existence of any road in the said area causes inconvenience to the travelling public?

(*c*) Have the Government received any representation for the construction of the said road?

(*d*) If the answers to (*b*) and (*c*) are in the affirmative, will the Hon'ble Minister be pleased to state what action the Government propose to take in the matter?

MINISTER in charge of the COMMUNICATIONS and WORKS DEPARTMENT (the Hon'ble Maharaja Srischandra Nandy, of Cossimbazar): (*a*) It has not been possible for Government to issue orders for the construction of that portion of the Burdwan-Arambagh Road across the spill area on the right bank of the Damodar river. The honourable member will recall that in reply to his starred question in the August Session last year, I referred to a low level road across this area. It is considered that the construction of such a road may interfere with the drainage and affect the health of the locality. This aspect of the case is being further explored by my Irrigation advisers.

(*b*) Although not up to the standard of the remainder of the new road which is nearing completion I would point out that there is an existing District Board road across the spill area.

(*c*) The answer is in the negative.

(*d*) I have explained the present position and we must await the recommendation of the Irrigation Officers.

Management of Hybatnagar estate by Court of Wards.

***148. Maulvi MD. ISRAIL:** (*a*) Will the Hon'ble Minister in charge of the Revenue Department be pleased to state—

(*i*) when the Hybatnagar estate (Kishoreganj, Mymensingh), was first taken up by the Court of Wards;

(*ii*) what was the liability of the estate at that time; stating therein the principal and interest;

(*iii*) what amount among the principal and interest have been paid up to 1940;

(*iv*) what is the outstanding dues at present, interest and principal to be stated separately; and

(*v*) what is the rate of interest of these debts?

(*b*) Has the General Manager, Court of Wards, Mymensingh, taken any steps under the Money-lenders Act, 1939, to get any relief thereunder for this estate?

(*c*) If the answer to (*b*) is in the negative, will the Hon'ble Minister be pleased to state the reasons therefor?

MINISTER in charge of the REVENUE DEPARTMENT (the Hon'ble Sir Bijoy Prasad Singh Roy): (*a*) (*i*) On the 12th May, 1926.

(*ii*) to (*iv*) A statement is laid on the table.

(*v*) Rate of interest for the debts varies from 6 per cent. to 9 per cent. per annum.

(*b*) Necessary steps are being taken.

(*c*) Does not arise.

Statement referred to in the reply to clauses (a) (ii) to (iv) of starred question No. 148.

	Principal.		Interest.
	Rs.		Rs.
(*ii*) Liability at the time of assumption ..	2,60,031		81,264
Debt incurred during Court's management	38,223	Accrued during Court's management ..	1,78,413
Total ..	2,98,254		2,59,677
(*iii*) Paid up to 1940 ..	1,35,944		2,29,548
Reduced by compromise ..	816		1,573
(*iv*) Outstanding dues ..	1,61,494		28,556

Maulvi MD. ISRAIL: Will the Hon'ble Minister be pleased to state, with reference to answer (*ii*), whether the principal stated herein is the renewed principal including any previous interest or the original principal?

The Hon'ble Sir BIJOY PRASAD SINGH ROY: That was the liability at the time of the assumption of the estate.

Maulvi MD. ISRAIL: My question has not been properly answered, Sir. I want to know whether this principal represents the original principal—I mean, the principal amount taken from the creditor, or it includes interest as well.

The Hon'ble Sir BIJOY PRASAD SINGH ROY: I want notice.

Maulvi MD. ISRAIL: Will the Hon'ble Minister be pleased to state, with reference to answer (*a*), why the Court of Wards incurred debts during their management?

The Hon'ble Sir BIJOY PRASAD SINGH ROY: During the period of depression in the course of their management collections were bad and naturally there were arrears of revenue.

UNSTARRED QUESTIONS

(to which answers were laid on the table)

Training and registration of "dais".

52. Miss P. B. BELL-HART: (*a*) Will the Hon'ble Minister in charge of the Public Health and Local Self-Government Department be pleased to state what steps have been taken regarding—

(*i*) the training and registration of *dais*; and

(*ii*) the supervision of their work in municipalities and rural areas?

(*b*) Will the Hon'ble Minister be pleased to state whether any scheme is under consideration for improvement in the training, supervision and registration of *dais*?

(*c*) If the answer to (*b*) is in the negative, will the Hon'ble Minister be pleased to state what action he proposes to take in the matter?

The Hon'ble Nawab Khwaja HABIBULLAH Bahadur, of Dacca: (*a*) Government make an annual contribution of Rs.15,000 to the local bodies towards the cost of training of *dais*. There is a provision for registration and control of *dais* in the Bengal Municipal Act. The question of framing necessary rules under the Bengal Municipal Act for the registration of *dais* and supervision of their work in municipal

areas is under the consideration of Government. The necessary amendment of the Bengal Local Self-Government Act in this regard is also under examination.

(*b*) A scheme for improvement in the training of *dais* is already under my consideration.

(*c*) Does not arise.

Settlement Office buildings at Rangpur.

53. **Kazi EMDADUL HAQUE:** Will the Hon'ble Minister in charge of the Revenue Department be pleased to state—

(*a*) when the construction of the Settlement Office buildings at Rangpur was taken up;

(*b*) when it was completed; and

(*c*) how the building is being used now?

The Hon'ble Sir BIJOY PRASAD SINGH ROY: (*a*) May, 1931.

(*b*) 29th November, 1931.

(*c*) The building is now being used by the Police Department as an office.

Facilities to the boarders of the Bethune College Hostel.

54. **Mr. NIKUNJA BEHARI MAITI:** (*a*) Will the Hon'ble Minister in charge of the Education Department be pleased to state—

(*i*) the number of boarders now residing at the Bethune Women's Hostel; and

(*ii*) the area of the dormitory and the space for each boarder?

(*b*) Is the Hon'ble Minister aware that there is not sufficient space for each boarder from view-points of sanitation and health?

(*c*) If the answer to (*b*) is in the affirmative, is the Hon'ble Minister considering the desirability of removing some of the boarders from that hostel to the attached hostel?

(*d*) What steps, if any, do the Government contemplate for taking the boarders for morning walk under proper care at the adjoining Cornwallis Square in the morning when it is reserved for women folk?

The Hon'ble Mr. A. K. FAZLUL HUQ: (*a*) (*i*) 77.

(*ii*) 3,148 square feet exclusive of dressing, dining, study and sick rooms, the areas of which latter rooms are 877 square feet, 1,020 square

feet, 2,068 square feet and 418 square feet, respectively. Thus more than 79 square feet is available per boarder for sleeping, dressing and study.

(*b*) No.

(*c*) Does not arise.

(*d*) During holidays the boarders are taken to the adjacent square for their morning walk; on other days they use the College compound extending roughly over 14 or 15 bighas of land. The arrangement is considered suitable

STARRED QUESTIONS

(to which oral answers were given)

Resuscitation of the river Atrai and its tributary in Rajshahi district.

*117. **Maulvi M. MOSLEM ALI MOLLAH:** (*a*) Is the Hon'ble Minister in charge of the Communications and Works (Irrigation) Department aware that the Atrai and its tributary the Gur, the only two surviving rivers in the district of Rajshahi, have begun silting up so much so that they completely dry out in certain places during the summer months causing great inconvenience to the local trade, communication and harm to public health?

(*b*) If the answer to (*a*) is in the affirmative, will the Hon'ble Minister be pleased to state the steps, if any, taken by Government in this connection?

(*c*) If the answer to (*b*) is in the negative, is the Hon'ble Minister considering the desirability of having the matter thoroughly investigated by experts for the purpose of formulating a scheme for resuscitation of the rivers immediately?

The Hon'ble Maharaja SRISCHANDRA NANDY, of Cossimbazar: (*a*) It is not correct to say that the rivers Atrai and Gur are the only two surviving rivers in the Rajshahi district since two other rivers, namely, the Padma and its branch the Boral, exist in the district in a quite healthy condition. The Atrai and the Gur were formerly in much better condition when the Teesta floods used to flow through them. But as soon as they were cut off from the Teesta these rivers shrank and in their present condition they can only drain their local catchment areas. They are more or less stable now, showing only a slight improvement in a year of heavy rainfall or a slight deterioration when rainfall is deficient.

(b) and (c) Contour survey of the area through which the rivers flow has just been commenced with a view to collecting data required for the preparation of a flushing scheme for the improvement of the rivers.

Outbreak of malaria and distribution of quinine in certain districts.

***114. Dr. NALINAKSHA SANYAL:** (a) Is the Hon'ble Minister in charge of the Public Health and Local Self-Government Department aware of the fact that there has been an outbreak of malaria in the current year in the districts of Murshidabad, Nadia and Jessore and also in some parts of North Bengal?

(b) If so, will the Hon'ble Minister be pleased to state—

(i) whether any special measures, preventive or curative, have been taken to combat the disease this year in the areas affected; and

(ii) what are the quantities of quinine placed under the disposal of the District Boards of Murshidabad, Nadia, Jessore, Malda, Rajshahi and Bogra during the current year as compared with the last 3 years for free distribution to the poorer people of the areas concerned?

(c) Is it a fact that the Government have so far failed to supply the District Board of Nadia with even their minimum requisition and consequently the District Board Health Officer has informed some Union Boards of his inability to supply any quinine for free distribution?

The Hon'ble Nawab Khwaja HABIBULLAH Bahadur, of Dacca: (a) Yes.

(b) (i) Statements showing special measures taken by the (1) Public Health Department and (2) District Boards concerned are laid on the Library table.

(ii) A statement is laid on the Library table.

(c) The District Health Officer, Nadia, did not inform any Union Board about his inability to supply quinine except in case of dispensaries which separately receive Government supply. It appears from the invoices and intimations received in the office of the Director of Public Health up till the end of November that quinine and cinchona worth Rs.10,555 have already been supplied to the District Board of Nadia by the Presidency Jail. The production of quinine sulphate and cinchona febrifuge tablets being insufficient this year, all the District Boards including Nadia have been instructed to submit their

indents to the Presidency Jail according to the time schedule prescribed by the Superintendent, Cinchona Cultivation. Arrangements have since been made to meet the demands of all District Boards for tablets by conversion of quinine and cinchona febrifuge powder into tablets.

Tuberculosis in a certain village of Faridpur district.

*115. **Maulvi AZHAR ALI:** (*a*) Is the Hon'ble Minister in charge of the Public Health (Medical) Department aware of the fact that owing to the prevalence of tuberculosis, the village Habashpur, police-station Pangsha, in the district of Faridpur, is becoming depopulated?

(*b*) Will the Hon'ble Minister be pleased to lay on the table a statement showing—

(*i*) the number of persons attacked with tuberculosis;

(*ii*) the number treated medically; and

(*iii*) the number of deaths from tuberculosis during the last ten years in the said village?

(*c*) Will the Hon'ble Minister be pleased to state the step Government proposes to take for the protection of the villagers from further attack of tuberculosis?

The Hon'ble Nawab Khwaja HABIBULLAH Bahadur, of Dacca: (*a*) Government are not aware that incidence of tuberculosis is larger in Habashpur village than in any other village in Bengal. The population of Habashpur village is definitely on the increase. The District Magistrate or the Subdivisional Officer has not received any report that there is abnormal incidence of tuberculosis in that village.

(*b*) No authentic statistics are available for this or any other particular village. Copies of the letters from the District Health Officer, the Secretary, Bengal Tuberculosis Association, and the Second Vice-Chairman, Faridpur District Board, are laid on the Library table for general information of the honourable member.

(*c*) Government have already under consideration a provincial scheme for control of tuberculosis. Parts of the scheme have already been put into effect, and it is proposed to put another important item in effect in regard to establishment of Tuberculosis Clinics in the ensuing year.

(After starred question No. 141 was called out.)

Mr. SPEAKER: Mr. Suhrawardy, I am thinking that when an Hon'ble Minister is absent from the House without previous notice, I should start a poor box to which the Hon'ble Minister will have to contribute something as fine. (Laughter.)

The Hon'ble Mr. H. S. SUHRAWARDY: I think it is a deserved penalty.

Communal representation on the staff of Official Reporters in Bengal Legislatures.

***141. Maulvi ABDUL WAHAB KHAN:** (*a*) Will the Hon'ble Minister in charge of the Finance Department be pleased to state—

(*i*) the total strength of the Official Reporters in both the Houses of Legislature;

(*ii*) the number of them that are (1) Hindus and (2) Muslims; and

(*iii*) whether it constitutes a cadre by itself?

(*b*) If the answer to (*a*) (*iii*) is in the affirmative, will the Hon'ble Minister be pleased to state whether the rule of communal ratio is maintained with regard to recruitment to this service?

(*c*) If not, will the Hon'ble Minister be pleased to state the reason thereof?

MINISTER in charge of the FINANCE DEPARTMENT (the Hon'ble Mr. H. S. Suhrawardy): (*a*) (*i*) and (*ii*) *Assembly*—Muslims nil and non-Muslims 6.

Council—Muslims nil and non-Muslims 4.

(*a*) (*iii*), (*b*) and (*c*) With effect from the 28th November, 1940, the reporting staffs of the Council and Assembly Departments were separated from the cadre of Secretariat stenographers and placed whole time under the Council and Assembly Departments respectively. So long as there is any stenographer in the Secretariat cadre who had a lien on a permanent post in the combined cadre on the 27th November, 1940, and has the requisite qualifications, vacancies in the reporting staffs will be filled by absorption from the cadre of Secretariat stenographers. Thereafter recruitment will be subject to the Bengal Services Recruitment (Communal Ratio) Rules, 1940.

Mr. SASANKA SEKHAR SANYAL: With reference to answer (*a*) (*i*) and (*ii*), will the Hon'ble Minister be pleased to state how many of these 10 non-Muslims are Bengali non-Muslims and how many are non-Bengali non-Muslims?

The Hon'ble Mr. H. S. SUHRAWARDY: I would like to have notice.

Point of Privilege.

Srijut NARENDRA NATH DAS GUPTA: On a point of privilege, Sir. I gave notice of some motions which have been disallowed by you and the motions related to the grievances of Hindus all over Bengal. They are labouring under this communal administration, and in the case of one I pointed out that the Hindus of Gurudaspur approached His Excellency the Governor for redress and he replied to move this before the Legislature——

Mr. SPEAKER: Please don't mention the facts

Srijut NARENDRA NATH DAS GUPTA: Here also you have disallowed those questions. Under the circumstances, I find that even here the Hindus have no hope of finding any justice in this Legislature and as a protest I withdraw from this House

Mr. SPEAKER: You may do so.

(The member then withdrew from the House.)

DEMAND FOR GRANT.

25—General Administration—General Administration.

Mr. SPEAKER: I think that the retrenchment motion is now closed except for reply.

Mr. Sahedali, do you want to move motion No 12 that stands in your name?

Mr. SHAHEDALI: Yes, Sir I beg to move that the demand of Rs. 1,27,00,000 for expenditure under the head "25—General Administration" be reduced by Rs. 100.

Sir, so far as the question of abolition of nomination is concerned, it is a crying need of Bengal. In 1936 our leader was the Hon'ble Mr. A. K. Fazlul Huq and he gave extended assurances to the people that if he once became the head of Government he would do away with the system of nomination. Four years have passed and only one year now remains. (Mr. SASANKA SEKHAR SANYAL: Not even one year. Only a few months remain.) Even now we do not see, Sir, any glimpse of the abolition of the system of nomination. Sir, the system of nomination is a bad practice, and it has given rise to corruption and bribery in the locality. People think that if they have got sufficient money they will be able to get nomination and rule over the people of the locality.

Generally the persons who cannot get themselves elected go to the local bodies through the back door of nomination. At the time when Mr. Nausher Ali was a Minister, he gave us an assurance that if a man cannot get himself elected he will never be nominated. But at the present time, Sir, to our utter surprise we find that a man who fails to get himself elected generally gets nomination. (Mr. SASANKA SEKHAR SANYAL: Shame! shame!) What is the reason, Sir? The reason is that they can nowadays approach the men in authority and easily induce them to give them nomination. For this reason the people in the locality think that the days of honesty have gone and corruption and bribery prevail in the province and they can get their desire for membership satisfied, provided that they have got enough money.

Now, Sir, as regards the evils of nomination, I can show them by citing one example. In police-station Daudkandi in the district of Tippera some people were nominated to the Debt Settlement Board and an award was given by the Board. But for some reason they had to alter the award because there was the name of a man who was not a member of the Board on the date on which the award was given. It was brought to the notice of the Subdivisional Officer and he gave an assurance that he would see to it, but up till now there has been no remedy. A person who can sign his name, a man who can ante-date his signature can go scot-free even though the matter was brought to the notice of the authority concerned.

Now, Sir, local bodies are self-governing institutions, but from our practical experience we find that they are only other governing institutions and non self-governing institutions. For example, Sir, in the Tippera District Board there will be 44 seats, out of which 33 will be elected and 11 will be nominated. In the general election as many as 21 members of the Opposition were elected as against 12 men elected from the Government Group, but by nomination Government can get a majority and as a result there will be 23 members from the Government Group, while the elected members will only be 21. Though the people wish that they will govern themselves according to their own wish, still as a matter of fact they cannot do so, because the system of nomination stands in the way. Therefore, Sir, I say that these are not self-governing institutions, rather they are Government governing institutions. It is entirely a misnomer.

Secondly, Sir, I come to the ballot system. In the election of members to the Assembly and Council, there is the ballot system of voting. Even now we find that in some of the local board elections there is a ballot system of voting. But so far as the union board is concerned, up till now Government have not taken any steps to remove that difficulty. At the time of the election whenever the local President or any Khan Bahadur or Rai Bahadur is sitting by the side of the

polling officer, these ignorant and illiterate people get afraid and they generally name the man who is sitting by the side of the polling officer. They cannot exercise their free will in voting. Why speak of these ignorant and illiterate people! This has been very clear by the example shown in electing the members of the Upper House from this Assembly. There is a case now before the Election Tribunal. You have seen, Sir, how the members of the Coalition Group have admitted before the Tribunal that they got terrified, that they thought that they would be beaten, and that they would be insulted, and hence they were compelled to give vote even for the man who was not liked by them. My submission is that if all this is possible in the case of members of this Assembly who are educated and who have got responsibility, we cannot say what is the extent and nature of the terror so far as the rural people are concerned. So, only to make the Government more efficient, only for the good name of the Government and because of the hope that has been held out by the Government, I suggest that the ballot system of voting should be introduced in all local bodies.

Lastly, Sir, I want to deal with the introduction of male adult franchise to all local bodies. In respect of the Assembly, a man paying a rate of 6 annas can take part in the election of members to the Assembly and exercise his vote But so far as the district board is concerned, a man who pays less than one rupee as a rate is not entitled to give a vote. The people there cannot exercise the right of voting because they are not given that right. Our popular Ministers generally boast that they are ruling here only for the masses. They want to do good to the masses. In that case, they ought to know the desire of the masses. Therefore I do request the Hon'ble Ministers to introduce male adult franchise to all local bodies.

Maulvi ABDUL WAHED : মাননীয় সভাপতি সাহেব, আমার বন্ধু সাহেদ আলি সাহেব যে তিনটি প্রস্তাব উপস্থিত কোরেছেন আমি তার সমর্থনে কিছু বোলছি। নমিনেশন প্রথা উঠিয়ে দেবার, গোপন বেলট ভোটের ব্যবস্থা করার এবং প্রাপ্তবয়স্ক ব্যক্তির ভোটের অধিকার দেওয়ার এই তিনটি দাবী আমি সমর্থন করছি। প্রথমেই বোলতে চাই এই নমিনেশন প্রথা থাকার দরুণ আমাদের দেশের স্বায়ত্বশাসন প্রতিষ্ঠানগুলি, স্বায়ত্বশাসনের যে অধিকার সেই অধিকার হইতে সম্পূর্ণ বঞ্চিত এবং শুধু বঞ্চিত নয় কলঙ্কিত, কলুষিত এবং নানা প্রকারের কু-আখ্যায় আখ্যায়িত। কারণ নমিনেশনে আসবার জন্য তারাই চেষ্টা করেন যারা একবার নির্ব্বাচনে ফেল হোয়েছে এবং যারা সরকারী কর্ম্মচারীদের ভক্ত। দেখা যায় পল্লীর ইউনিয়ন বোর্ডগুলির প্রথম প্রভু সার্কেল অফিসার, দ্বিতীয় প্রভু এস. ডি. ও, তার চাইতে বড় প্রভু হোলেন জিলা ম্যাজিষ্ট্রেট, এমন কি থানা অফিসারও বাদ যান না সেই ইউনিয়ন বোর্ডের উপর প্রভুত্ব কোরতে। থানা অফিসার, সার্কেল অফিসার, এস, ডি, ও, এঁদের মনোতুষ্টি যারা কোর্তে পারে তাদেরই নমিনেশন পাওয়ার একটা বিশেষ আশা থাকে। সেই আশায় প্রার্থীরা তাদের পেছনে

পেছনে ঘোরেণ এবং জোহজুর জোহজুর বলেন। তারপর আর একটা লক্ষ্য করিবার জিনিষ এই যে, বর্ত্তমান শাসন সংস্কারে গভর্ণমেণ্ট অফিসাররা যে পর্য্যন্ত চাকরীতে আছেন তারা আইন সভার মেম্বার হওয়ার অধিকার থেকে বঞ্চিত হোয়েছেন। কিন্তু সে যায়গায় আমাদের স্থানীয় স্বায়ত্বশাসন প্রতিষ্ঠানগুলিতে তাঁদের কেন মনোনয়ন করা হয়। এই সব মনোনয়নের ফলে ডিষ্ট্রীক্ট বোর্ডগুলি সরকারী অফিসে পরিণত হোয়েছে। বাহির থেকে যাঁরা নির্ব্বাচিত বা মনোনীত হোয়ে আসেন তারা সাধারণতঃ দেখা যায় এস, ডি, ও, সাহেব প্রভৃতিকে হুজুর হুজুর করেন। এই সব লোকের স্বাধীন মত প্রকাশ করবার শক্তি নেই। এই রকম দুর্ব্বলচেতা মানুষগুলিকেও গভর্ণমেণ্ট আনেন নমিনেশনের ভেতর দিয়ে। এই ভাবে তাঁরা স্বায়ত্বশাসন প্রতিষ্ঠানগুলিকে নষ্ট কোরে দিচেছন। আমাদের ভবিষ্যতের আশা আকাঙ্খা নষ্ট কোরছেন। সভাপতি সাহেব, এই নমিনেশন প্রথা অত্যন্ত খারাপ। আমরা এর বিরুদ্ধে তীব্র প্রতিবাদ কোরছি এবং অচিরে উঠিয়ে দেবার দাবী কোরছি।

এর পর দাবী কোরছি গোপন ভোটের, যাতে জনসাধারণ নিজের বিবেক বুদ্ধিদ্বারা পরিচালিত হোয়ে ইচ্ছামত ভোট দিতে পারে। গ্রাম দেশে ইউনিয়ন বোর্ডের ইলেকসনের সময় দেখা যায় যে সব লোকেরা মাতব্বরী কোরে থাকেন এবং যাদের সঙ্গে থানার অফিসার এবং জমিদারের কর্ম্মচারীদের যথেষ্ট মিল রোয়েছে, গ্রামের লোকেরা অনিচ্ছা সত্বেও সেই সব মাতব্বর লোকদের ভোট দিয়ে থাকেন এই ভেবে যে এই সব লোকের বিরুদ্ধে গেলে জমিদার এবং থানা অফিসার বেজার হবেন। আমি কিছু দিন পূর্ব্বে ঈশ্বরগঞ্জে মিটিং কোরেছিলাম। তখন বলেছিলাম যে এই সব ইউনিয়ন বোর্ডগুলির সৃষ্টি হওয়ায় সাধারণতঃ চোরদের বিপদ বেড়েছে। আর গ্রামের মাতব্বরদের ও বিপদ বেড়েছে। এখন আর চোরের জায়গা নেই যে চোরাই জিনিষ রাখে। এই সব মাতব্বরদের মধ্যে কেউ বা ইউনিয়ন বোর্ডের প্রেসিডেণ্ট নির্ব্বাচিত হোয়েছে, কেউ বা মেম্বর নির্ব্বাচিত হোয়েছেন এই রকম পদ লাভ কোরে তারা কি কোরে এখন চোরাই মাল রাখতে পারে। চোরেরাও বিপদে পোড়েছে—কোথায় মালগুলি রাখবে। ভোট দেওয়ার সময় অশিক্ষিত, সরল জনসাধারণ প্রাণের ভয়ে অনিচ্ছায় এই সমস্ত লোককে ভোট দিয়ে থাকে। সেইজন্য আমি বোলছি যে আমাদের গোপন ভোটের ব্যবস্থা হওয়া নিতান্ত দরকার। বিশেষ কোরে একটি বিষয়ের প্রতি আমি আপনাদের দৃষ্টি আকর্ষণ কোরছি। উচ্চ পরিষদের গত নির্ব্বাচনের সময় দেখা গেছে ক্ষমতার কতখানি প্রতিপত্তি। এই পরিষদের নির্ব্বাচিত সভ্যেরা যাঁরা জনসাধারণের সেবক বোলে নিজেদের পরিচয় দেন, যাঁরা নিজেদের বিবেক বুদ্ধির উপর দাঁড়িয়ে ওয়াদা দিয়েছিলেন তাঁরা জনসাধারণের হিত কোর্ব্বেন তাঁরাও উচ্চ পরিষদের গত নির্ব্বাচনের সময় ক্ষমতা ও প্রতিপত্তির ভয়ে স্বাধীনভাবে ভোট দিতে পারেন নাই। অনেক গোলমাল হোয়ে গেছে যা নিয়ে বর্ত্তমান মোকর্দ্দমা চোলছে। কাজেই যদি জনসাধারণকে স্বাধীন ভাবে ভোট দিয়ে প্রতিনিধি নির্ব্বাচনের সম্পূর্ণ অধিকার না দেওয়া হয় তাহোলে বোঝা যাবে গভর্ণমেণ্টের মোটেই ইচ্ছা নয় যে জনসাধারণের চোখ খুলে যায়। বরং এটাই বোঝা যাবে যে গভর্ণমেণ্ট জনসাধারণের উপর প্রভাব ও প্রতিপত্তি খাটাবার চেষ্টা কোরছেন। আমি একটা ইলেকসনের সময় দেখেছিলাম একজন

অজ্ঞ গ্রামবাসীর ভোট কি কোরে ফাঁকী দিয়ে নেওয়া হোয়েছিল। সেখানে ভোটপ্রার্থী আব্বাছ নামক জনৈক ভোটারের সঙ্গে প্রার্থীর বাড়ীর গাব গাছ দ্বারা মিতালী করার চেষ্টা হয়েছিল। অতএব যাতে এই রকম লোকেরা জনসাধারণকে ধোকা দিতে না পারে, যাতে জনসাধারণ তাদের ভোট উপযুক্ত পাত্রে বিবেক বুদ্ধি অনুসারে দান কোরে নিজেদের প্রতিনিধি নির্ব্বাচিত কোরে এই সব প্রতিষ্ঠানগুলি দখল কোর্ত্তে পারে সেই রকম ভাবে ভোটের ব্যবস্থা করা উচিৎ। আমি আর একটা কথা বোলছি আমাদের ভোটের অধিকার সম্বন্ধে। বহু আন্দোলন ও আলোচনার ফলে, বহু কষ্টের ফলে, বহু লোকের ফাঁসীকাষ্ঠে ঝোলার ফলে, বহু লোকের দ্বীপান্তরের ফলে, এমন কি জেলখানার অবিচার, অনাচার, অত্যাচারের বিরুদ্ধে প্রতিবাদ কোরে অনাহারে প্রাণত্যাগের ফলে আমরা এই ভোটের অধিকার পেয়েছি। কিন্তু যারা ছয় আনা টেক্স দেয় তারা ভোটের অধিকার পেয়েছে। সেই টেক্স দিতে না পারলে ভোট দিতে পার্ব্বে না। আর একটা কথা বোলতে চাই। টেক্সের সঙ্গে জ্ঞান ও বিবেক বুদ্ধির কি সম্পর্ক রোয়েছে। আমি নিরক্ষর চাষী, আমার ভোটের অধিকার আছে কিন্তু আমার ছোট ভাই বি, এ, পাশ কোরেছে অথচ তার নামে টেক্স নেই বোলে সেই হেতু সে ভোট দিতে পারে না। আমি বোলতে চাই জনসাধারণের ভিতর পূর্ণবয়স্ক সকলেরই একটা ভোটের অধিকার আছে, আমরা সেই অধিকারের দাবী কোরছি। অন্ততঃ ইউনিয়ন বোর্ডে, ডিষ্ট্রীক্ট বোর্ডেও এই অধিকার পাবার আশা কোরছি, শুধু আশা নয় ভবিষ্যতে আমরা এই অধিকার লাভ কোর্ত্তে চাই এবং লাভ কোর্ব্ব। তারপরে আমরা ভারতবর্ষকে স্বাধীন কোর্ব্ব। আমরা চাই পূর্ণবয়স্ক সকলের বিনা টেক্স ও শিক্ষার দিক দিয়ে মাপকাঠি না নিয়ে অবাধ ভোটের ব্যবস্থা কোর্ত্তে হবে। সেই ব্যবস্থা গভর্ণমেণ্ট করুন। তাহোলে জনসাধারণ নিজেদের প্রতিনিধি দ্বারা স্বায়ত্তশাসন প্রতিষ্ঠানগুলি দখল কোরে নিজেদের সুখ সুবিধার ব্যবস্থা কোর্ত্তে পারে এবং তাদের যতখানি পাওয়া উচিৎ ততখানি আদায় কোরে নিতে পারে। কাজেই এই সম্পর্কে বিশেষ বলার আর প্রয়োজন আছে বোলে মনে করি না। আমার বিশেষ অনুরোধ এই যে, মনোনয়ন প্রথা তুলে দিয়ে, গোপন ভোটের ব্যবস্থা কোরে, আমাদের বয়ঃপ্রাপ্ত জনসাধারণকে অবাধ ভোটের অধিকার দিয়ে, আমাদের স্বায়ত্তশাসন প্রতিষ্ঠানগুলিকে শক্তিশালী কোরে, স্বায়ত্ত-শাসনের পূর্ণ অধিকার পাওয়ার সুখ সুবিধা করেন—মন্ত্রিমণ্ডলীর নিকট এই আমার বিশেষ অনুরোধ। এই প্রসঙ্গে আমি আর একটা কথা বলার প্রয়োজন আছে বোলে মনে করি যেহেতু এই বিভাগ মাননীয় ঢাকার নবাব বাহাদুরের হাতে আছে। সেদিন তিনি ময়মনসিংহ জেলার ফুলবেরিয়া থানায় (?) বিরাট জনসভায় বক্তৃতা প্রসঙ্গে বোলেছেন আমি যে সমস্ত কথা বোলছি তা একটুও মিথ্যা নয়। মিথ্যা কি সত্য তা প্রতিপন্ন কোর্ত্তে গিয়ে তিনি এমন কথা বোলে ফেলেছিলেন যাহা একজন সাধারণ লোকেও বলিতে সাহস পেত না তিনি বোলেছিলেন যে "আমি যে সমস্ত কথা বোলছি সেগুলি যদি মিথ্যা হয় তাহোলে আমি হারামজাদা"। তিনি ভাল মানুষ, বিবেক বুদ্ধি সম্পন্ন লোক। দেশের স্বায়ত্তশাসন প্রতিষ্ঠানগুলির ভার তাঁর ওপর রোয়েছে। এই সব অভাব অভিযোগ মুক্তকণ্ঠে আপামর জনসাধারণের পক্ষথেকে তাঁর গোচরীভূত করছি। আমি আশা করি তিনি বিশেষভাবে এই দিকে অগ্রসর হবেন এবং এই সমস্ত অসুবিধা দূরীভূত কোরে স্বায়ত্তশাসন বিভাগে আমাদের পূর্ণ অধিকার দান করবেন।

The Hon'ble Nawab Khwaja HABIBULLAH Bahadur, of Dacca: Sir, as far as I remember, this question was discussed once before on the floor of this House, and while replying to that I gave as my personal opinion that I for myself wanted that nominations should go. And I have come to that conclusion after having been the Minister of Local Self-Government, that nomination should go, because it would save the Minister a great deal of trouble from both his friends as well as his enemies. Since then I have been considering what would be the best method to deal with this question, so that it might enable me to bring in a Bill in which all these questions of nomination as well as adult franchise and the ballot system would be incorporated and place it before this House for its decision. A Special Officer was appointed and the Special Officer has submitted his report, and the Bill by the department is ready and has been placed before the Cabinet. In the meantime, we have tried and got opinions from all classes of people who may be affected by these measures, and I must say that opinion is so divergent that I do not know what eventually is going to happen in the House. For example, the people from West Bengal are horrified when they hear that nominations are going to be given up, while I know my friends from East Bengal are determined somehow that nominations should be given up and there should be election without any nomination at all.

Now, Sir, Government has to think about the problems of minorities. For, in a place like Mymensingh, if nomination be given up, Muslims having 85 per cent. population will be elected and not a Hindu will come in. Then what will happen to the Hindus who have got just as much right of being represented as the other community? These are questions of a very important character. As I have already informed the House, the department has submitted a Bill before the Cabinet, and I am sure that this matter will be very soon definitely settled and will come up before the House. I would also like to mention here that there is already a Select Committee sitting on a private member's Bill in regard to the very same question which has been moved by a member of the Assembly belonging to the Coalition Party and the Select Committee will, I am sure, consider all these factors and when it emerges the House will have an opportunity of discussing it.

As regards adult franchise, I will only say that the financial responsibilities will be very heavy. If you have adult franchise the district boards will not be able to pay for election, and the burden will either fall on the provincial revenues or some other source. But, as I have already mentioned, Government has been considering this, and I trust by the July session we shall have definite Bills—the Village Self-Government Bill and the Municipal Bill—reflecting the desire in a way of my friend who has moved this motion.

My friend Mr. Bokainagari—I think I am pronouncing the name correctly—has been talking about nominations and the way in which nominations have been given. Sir, I totally deny the charge. I say that nominations have been given by the District Magistrates keeping in view of the local conditions and keeping in view that the people recommended are fit.

Then, Sir, Mr. Shahedali has said that by nominations, majority has been turned into minority. I can tell the House that while I have been in charge I have always tried to see that in no case an elected majority is turned into a minority by nomination, and if any member can bring to my notice that this has been done even by mistake, I say that it shall be rectified. It is never the desire of Government that an elected majority should be turned into a minority by these nominations.

As regards the ballot system of voting, as I have said, I myself approve that there should be a ballot system of voting as it is done in the Assembly. But all these matters will be dealt with in a Bill which will be brought in later.

In view of what I have said, I would request the honourable member to withdraw his motion. If not, I shall have to oppose it.

The motion of Mr. Shahedali that the demand of Rs. 1,27,00,000 for expenditure under the head "25—General Administration" be reduced by Rs. 100 was then put and lost.

Mr. SPEAKER: Mr. Das, as regards your motion, the difficulty is that you have raised a point which I think is not in order in connection with the budget cut motion. Show me the relevancy of your motion. After all Government has not issued any instruction as to the treatment to be meted out to the public.

Mr. MONMOHAN DAS: Sir, I think my motion is in order.

Mr. SPEAKER: How can it be in order? Dealings meted out to the public by the present Subdivisional Officer of Kishoreganj is not a matter in which the general administration is responsible.

Mr. SASANKA SEKHAR SANYAL: While wholly appreciating the point that you have raised, Sir, would it not be proper for us to expect that Mr. Monmohan Das might speak on the general demand and in doing so he might draw the attention of the Government to the particular grievance as set forth in his motion?

Mr. SPEAKER: Yes, I think that is possible.

Mr. SASANKA SEKHAR SANYAL: In the meantime, let us go over to motion No. 9 of Mr. Surendra Nath Biswas.

Mr. SPEAKER: All right.

Mr. SURENDRA NATH BISWAS: Mr. Speaker, Sir, I beg to move that the demand of Rs. 1,27,00,000 for expenditure under the head "25—General Administration" be reduced by Rs. 100.

Sir, I shall not deal in detail with what the Ministers having been in charge of the administration for the past 4 years have done or have not done in the interest of the masses. I shall not also deal with what Government could have done with the limited powers conferred on them under the reformed constitution. I shall not also deal in detail with Government's failure to redeem their pledges to improve the economic condition in general and to solve the agrarian problems in particular of this province, the problems which are eating the soul of every family, Hindu or Muslim, living in this province. Sir, I shall only ask the Ministers and specially——

Mr. Speaker, may I request you that either the Hon'ble the Chief Minister or the Hon'ble the Home Minister should be present?

Mr. SPEAKER: I think the Minister responsible should be present.

Mr. SURENDRA NATH BISWAS: Sir, I shall only ask the Ministers, and specially the Hon'ble Mr. Fazlul Huq, the Chief Minister, to turn his eyes upon the nett result of their achievements during the last four years of their régimé. Can Mr. Fazlul Huq or any other Minister deny that the policy of their administration has been responsible for having set the hour hand of the clock of national progress of this unhappy province 50 years back? Can he deny that their policy of administration has set the whole province in communal flames? Can he deny that the people have begun to feel that Government have ceased to function in this province as such? Sir, after all, what is Government? Government is nothing but the Executive Committee of the nation living in the country, and it is the fundamental and foremost duty of every Government to look to the peace and prosperity of the nation living in that country. Now, Sir, can Mr. Fazlul Huq or any other Minister claim or rather say that their administration has brought about peace and prosperity for the Bengali nation? Can any of the Ministers contradict me when I say that the little good that the Ministry has done to the peasantry of Bengal has been more than counterbalanced by the evils that have been brought forth by the policy of their administration? Of those evils the virus of communalism has been the worst. Sir, a feeling has arisen in this province that one community is ruling over another and this feeling has struck at the root of peace and unity in every village. The Muslim cry of Pakisthan has vitiated the political atmosphere of this province. The spirit of nationalism——

The Hon'ble Sir BIJOY PRASAD SINGH ROY: Sir, may I suggest that the honourable member may kindly reserve his speech for the outside public? It may help him in his election.

Mr. SYED JALALUDDIN HASHEMY: Sir, we take serious objection to the remarks of the Hon'ble Minister. Is he entitled to make such remarks?

The Hon'ble Sir BIJOY PRASAD SINGH ROY: Sir, it is a very friendly suggestion that I have made.

Mr. SYED JALALUDDIN HASHEMY: You have no business to do so. You are here only as a Minister.

Mr. SANTOSH KUMAR BASU: The Hon'ble Minister may feel very touchy about the reference to Pakisthan. He is probably more touchy than even his other colleagues in the Coalition Party. But that is no reason why he should make the suggestion to one of the members that he should reserve his speech for the outside public and not for this House.

Mr. SPEAKER: I have been feeling that motion No. 9 has nothing to do with all that.

Mr. SURENDRA NATH BISWAS: Sir, I was only developing my point.

Mr. SPEAKER: You have only to speak with regard to Defence of India Rules.

Mr. SYED JALALUDDIN HASHEMY: Sir, that is a matter that rests absolutely with you——

Mr. SPEAKER: Mr. Hashemy, may I remind you that you are not to function here as an invigilator of the House. It is a matter for the Party Leader or myself. Whatever you wanted to say, you have stated it once. Don't rise too often. It will give you trouble to rise over and over again.

Mr. SURENDRA NATH BISWAS: Sir, you will kindly see the context of my motion. My motion has reference to the indiscriminate application of the Defence of India Rules in the province of Bengal, and I shall narrate the cases of such indiscrimination and in going to place my case before the House, I was just speaking about the causes as to how this nationalism was crushed and a spirit of communalism rose up which was responsible for the indiscriminate application——

Mr. SPEAKER: I am afraid you cannot speak on all those things on this motion. This motion is confined purely to the application of the Defence of India Rules and the granting of allowances.

Mr. SURENDRA NATH BISWAS: All right, Sir. You will please listen to me. If you find anything objectionable you will rule me out of order.

Sir, the spirit of nationalism—the fundamental basis of the fight for the independence of the country which has been responsible for the reformed constitution, the fruits of which the Ministers are enjoying to-day—has been pushed to the wall.

The Muslims have been and are being taught that they do not form one nation with the Hindus or other communities living in this country, but they form one nation with the Muslims all over the world.

The Indian National Congress, the only political organisation of this country and which alone stood by the Muslims of India when their Khilafat was defiled by the British during and after the last Great War of Europe and which still stands to-day as the monument of national unity, is being ignored and hated. The workers of the Congress who have given their life blood to build the path of national progress and to whose blood and ashes, sacrifices and sufferings, the edifice of the reformed constitution owes its birth, are being persecuted in the interests of British Imperialism, in the name of defence of India. The Defence of India Rules are being ruthlessly and indiscriminately applied to the vanguards of freedom in this province. It has been pointed out several times in this House that the Bengal Ministry have out-Heroded Herod in the application of those rules. What all other provinces together have not done and what even the official-ridden Provincial Governments are not doing, the Bengal Government have done with vengeance. All public meetings and assemblies, whether in relation to war or otherwise, have been banned all over the provinces. Hundreds of arrests and convictions have been made for holding or participating in meetings or assemblies called or gathered for purposes unconnected with war. In the name of defence of India, hundreds of arrests and convictions have been made, for possessing books or pamphlets, not proscribed but considered objectionable by the Intelligence Branch of the Police. Besides, hundreds of others have been arrested and detained without trial in the name of safety in India. Indiscriminate orders of externment and internment also have been passed upon about five hundred young men of this province. Hundreds of families have been stranded as a result of such unjust and indiscriminate repression. No maintenance allowance has been given to the suffering families of the security prisoners, except in the cases of half a dozen of them and in those cases also a

pittance of Rs. 10 or the like has been sanctioned. The externees and internees have lost their business or service which has so long been the only means of their livelihood and yet they are not to get any allowance, but are to starve with their families and children. Even the old bureaucratic Government felt ashamed of such tyrannous conduct. Even they used to grant allowances in such cases. But the popular Minister would oppress these nationalists with vengeance. Not only that, the so-called popular Government have also betrayed their vindictive mentality in making classifications of the political prisoners. There have been many cases where the prisoners are entitled under the Jail Code to get Division I or II, having regard to their education, social status or method of living, and yet have been placed in Division III. And there have been many cases also where they are entitled to Division I, but have been placed in Division II. Even the old bureaucratic Government had not made such deliberate or invidious distinction in the matter of classification. In 1921 and 1930 all political prisoners were given a special class similar to Division I. But the unfortunate fighters for the freedom of our country are not to get just and due treatment, not to speak of sympathetic treatment in the hands of our own men. I wonder how could the popular Government outride the old bureaucratic Government in oppressing the political workers and suppressing the political movement. I wonder how could Mr. Fazlul Huq be a party to such oppression and suppression. At the beginning of his régimé, on several occasions he sympathised with us, but confessed his difficulty in sympathetically dealing with the political prisoners of Bengal. He used to tell us that the British steel frame of civil service was still then ruling over the destiny of our province. His difficulty was understandable, but how is it that he has himself become a party to such repression and oppression? Did he not remember with a feeling of gratitude the cases of the political sufferers at the time of his election to the reformed Legislature? Was it not out of gratitude to the political prisoners that he gave his pledge to release them as soon as he got power? If that was four years back, why has he changed himself? Is it because of his failure as a nationalist to do any good to the country that he has run mad for destroying everything that is good? His sickening outbursts now and then and at all times lead me to believe that with the deliberate object of forgetting his past he is drinking the cup of intoxicating communalism every moment without rest, just as one drinks wine to be insensate to one's miseries? Though hoping against hope, I shall once to-night request the Hon'ble Mr. Fazlul Huq to be awakened about his former self. I shall ask him to shake off his stupor to see with his mind's eye how his own countrymen—how the young men whom he once loved and adored for their selfless devotion to the cause of motherland—are being oppressed and repressed to serve the British interests in the name of defence of India, how the innocent women and children of the victims of the Defence of India Rules are

passing their days without proper food and clothes; and how his once dear young men are rotting behind the prison bars for their attempts to remove the shackles of slavery from the feet of their motherland.

I shall once more request him to release the political workers from the clutches of the Defence of India Rules and the Indian Penal Code or to remove all their grievances and to grant sufficient allowances to their family and children. A few thousand rupees spent in that direction will be well spent. If he finds it impossible to do that because of the opposition of the reactionary elements still surrounding him let him come out of his uncomfortable position and once again join his old nationalist friends and assist them in throwing off the yoke of slavery.

Mr. MONMOHAN DAS: Mr. Speaker, Sir, I shall say a few words with regard to the failure of Government so far as general administration is concerned. I submit that Government have failed in controlling its executive officers, especialy the District and Subdivisional Officers. It is evident from facts and circumstances how Government officials—Subdivisional and District Officers—deal with the general public, and how the present Government have failed to control their officers.

To refer to one concrete case, Sir, I shall cite the conduct of Mr. S. N. Baker, I.C.S., Subdivisional Officer of Kishoreganj in the district of Mymensingh. It is said that we have got provincial autonomy and that we live under a democratic Government, but when I shall narrate the incidents relating to the conduct of Mr. Baker, it will be seen that we live under an irresponsible and autocratic system of Government Sir, Mr. Bakar has by his terrorising activities and high-handedness proved himself a terror to the people of the subdivision. He never thinks himself to be a public servant, but he thinks himself to be a superior master. Of course, the law compels him to address the public, in black and white, as "your most obedient servant," but his conduct shows that his spirit and nature never allow him to think so.

Sir, this Subdivisional Officer has the sole responsibility for the maintenance of peace and order and the comfort of his subdivision, but instead of maintaining peace and order, he has created disorder in the minds of the public. As a servant of the popular Government, he should have kept himself in touch with the public and the public also expect to meet him when necessary. But Mr. Baker is always out of touch. Not to speak of the general masses, even the respectable gentlemen of the locality cannot get an opportunity of meeting him in important functions save and except those who can work at his whims and caprices.

Then, Sir, in the morning he is not found and in the evening he keeps himself out of temper. Where is then the opportunity? Whatever the status and personality of a man, he is deemed inferior to him.

He does not care for any one, and a gentleman approaching for an interview is detained for hours together, because he thinks that it is his pleasure to meet him or not to meet him. No patient hearing is allowed. He is a man of irritating nature. When he goes out he does not hesitate to assault the passers-by, even on insignificant grounds.

As an official, he has been acting in such a manner that he has become a nuisance. It is difficult to describe in detail his acts of indiscretion. I shall, however, place before you some important facts which will satisfy you beyond all doubt as to how dangerous he has become.

On 13th June, 1940, on certain information lodged by a woman of a rather questionable character he had been to the village Nagua, police-station Kishoreganj, and mercilessly assaulted one Jogesh Das, one Jaladhar and one Aswini Dhubi with a bamboo stick and with boots and as a result of the brutal assault all of them were injured. Of them, Jogesh had to pass urine as well as stool on the very spot. He had a tooth broken and the sacred *tulsi* beads worn by him were torn away.

These unfortunate people had no power to file a regular complaint against the Subdivisional Officer, and there is none to look after them. They sent in petitions with a record of their grievances to the District Magistrate of Mymensingh, and to the Commissioner of Dacca, and also informed all the local members of this Legislature of their grievances, but to no effect Thereupon, I thought it to be my duty to bring this matter to the notice of this House. Accordingly, in due course I sent notices of questions, but I am sorry to say that my questions were refused.

On another occasion, Sir, one Sayedur Rahman of Nandala, police-station Kishoreganj, filed a complaint in the Court of this Subdivisional Officer for forgery of a *kabala* by some persons. On 29th June, 1940, Mr. Baker, having been prejudiced, formed an idea that the allegations made in the complaint against the accused were not correct, got angry, called the complainant while sitting in his Court dais and assaulted him in the open Court in the presence of many pleaders and *mukhtears*. And after this to justify his own conduct, he tried to secure from the complainant an admission to the effect that the complaint made by him was false, and he ordered his *chaprassi* to assault the man till an admission was extorted from him.

Sir, a big *mela* called the Kurikhai Mela is held every year in the month of *Magh* in Kishoreganj subdivision and a large number of Muhammadan *fakirs* assemble there from the different parts of the district to see the *darga*. As this system of *fakiri* is not to his liking, he went to the *mela* and belaboured the innocent people, defiling the

darga which is sacred to the Muslims. The *darga*-owner who is respected by everybody and many other respectable persons were put in the *hajat* for hours together.

Then, Sir, I got a recent information that when a number of carts heavily loaded with sugarcanes were proceeding towards the sugar-mill of Kishoreganj and there was a heavy rush of passers-by from the opposite direction, Mr. Baker was out in his car, and as his car was obstructed, he got angry and assaulted some of the helpless cartmen——

Mr. SPEAKER: Mr. Das, I have long enough tolerated these personal attacks and insinuations. These are all matters which are wholly irrelevant to the present debate. You have not been able even to make out a case as to why this demand should be reduced or criticised. You have got certain complaints each one of which is of such a nature that it can be brought to the Criminal Court. And unless your statement is based on such facts as Government is in a position to deal with on the floor of the House, the debate is useless. You say that Mr. X on the 19th of July last belaboured—I have been able to catch only two sentences of yours so far—some of the mendicants in the *mela*, and your second point is that when some cartmen were carrying sugarcane in their carts, they were assaulted. These are matters on which Government cannot be expected to make a suitable reply offhand on the floor of the House. I would therefore request you to confine your statement to such matters as will bring them within the purview of this particular demand.

Mr. MONMOHAN DAS: It is with that object in view, Sir, that I am going to place all these facts before the House.

Rai HARENDRA NATH CHAUDHURI: On a point of order, Sir. Whenever it was attempted to raise such questions by means of adjournment motions, you advised us to raise such questions in connection with the "General Administration" budget. I think it is in pursuance of that advice of yours that Mr. Das is requesting Government to enquire into these allegations.

Mr. SPEAKER: But he has not spoken a word even to that effect.

Mr. MONMOHAN DAS: Sir, as I have already said, a number of carts loaded with sugarcane were proceeding towards Kishoreganj and Mr. S. N. Baker was out in his car. There was a heavy rush of passers-by proceeding from the opposite, and the car of Mr. Baker could not proceed easily. He got angry and assaulted the poor innocent carters. That is the position, Sir, and there are innumerable instances like this.

As I have said before, Mr. Baker is a man of irritative temper. In order to substantiate my charge, I can cite another instance. Last year during the trial of one Ajahar Ali, a respectable man in the locality, in the Court of Kishoreganj, there was a huge crowd around the Court, to see the trial. Mr. Baker got angry at this, and he threw paper weights which were on his table and thereby caused injuries to people.

Mr. SPEAKER: I am sure, Mr. Das, you are not going to appear in his Court after this. (Laughter.)

Mr. MONMOHAN DAS: When I shall have an opportunity I may do so.

Mr. SARAT CHANDRA BOSE: He may have an opportunity of returning the compliment by throwing back the paper weights.

Mr. MONMOHAN DAS: As I was saying, Sir, Mr. Baker is a man of irritative temper.

Mr. A. F. STARK: On a point of order, Sir. May I ask what has this got to do with the miseries of the Defence of India Rules?

Mr. SPEAKER: He is raising this question in connection with the cut motion on "General Administration." I have not allowed his motion.

Mr. MONMOHAN DAS: Sir, it is regrettable on my part as a member of the House to speak ill of a particular officer. Of course, it is very natural for many of the honourable members of the House, particularly my friends of the Coalition Party, to form an idea that it is out of a personal grievance that I am saying this. But, I submit most emphatically that this is not the result of any personal grievance, but it is due to the public sentiment which has been caused by the high-handedness and oppression on the part of the Subdivisional Officer.

Sir, there are many more instances, but I may point out only one more. Sir, it is really regrettable that last year in Bajitpur he arrested the son of one big money-lender and a respectable man of the locality, the son of Sib Chandra Shaha, and abused him in filthy language in the presence of many local gentlemen. He loses temper and cannot force his views to be accepted. He has done it in connection with the local institution, the local High English School. He has proved himself not only unpopular with the Hindus but also with the Muhammadans.

Sir, I submit all these facts without fear of contradiction, and I request that Government will kindly enquire as to how a Government official, I mean a responsible officer like the Subdivisional Officer, is dealing with the local public. I hope Government will also kindly advise him to apologise to the public for the misdeeds that he has done and ask him to behave in such a manner that he may think and feel that he is a public servant and not the master of the public. (Applause from the Opposition Benches.)

(At this stage the House was adjourned for 15 minutes.)

(After adjournment.)

Mr. KHAGENDRA NATH DAS GUPTA: In rising to support the cut motion so ably moved by my friend Mr. Surendra Nath Biswas, I beg to draw the pointed attention of this House to the abuses and misuses of the powers conferred on the executive by the Defence of India Act and the rules made thereunder. Though the Act together with its Rules has, according to its preamble, a fairly limited scope, those who are entrusted to administer them widened the scope more and more so as to catch all the fish in their net. They aim at taking away most valuable, fundamental and constitutional rights and privileges of the general public. Even the members of the Legislature are not privileged. I quote verbatim the wordings of some of the provisions of the Act and the Rules and relevant portions of the Order that the Governor of Bengal was pleased to promulgate for empowering certain officers for the purpose of securing compliance or preventing any contravention of the order.

The Order No. 2125P., dated the 8th April, 1940, which was published in the *Calcutta Gazette* of the 11th April, 1940, and which has been continued and republished verbatim at proper and regular intervals runs thus:—

"In exercise of the powers conferred by sub-rule *(1)* of Rule 56 of the Defence of India Rules and in supersession of the Order published under Notification No. 1113P., dated the 21st February, 1940, the Governor is pleased to make the following Order:—

(1) No person shall convene, organise, hold or take part in any public procession, meeting or assembly for the furtherance of any object or the discussion of any matter, the furtherance or discussion of which—

(a) is or is intended or is likely to be prejudicial act within the meaning of clause *(b)* of Rule 34 of the Defence of India Rules; or

(*b*) is intended or is likely to affect prejudicially the Defence of British India, the public safety, the maintenance of public order, the efficient prosecution of war or the maintenance of supplies and services essential to the life of the community."

The Order continues and directs that the officers authorised under paragraph 6 of this Order may direct that no person shall convene, organise, hold or take part in any public procession, meeting or assembly unless written notice has been previously given or permission has been obtained for organising or holding such processions and meetings.

Now, what are prejudicial acts? Rule 34 clearly defined them, but nowhere do we find that a meeting by *raiyats* and tenants for discussing improvements on existing tenancy laws is considered prejudicial. *Raiyats* and tenants may meet also for discussions regarding improvement of their general economic conditions, may meet the members of the Legislature on parliamentary matters, they may hold religious meetings, organise religious processions, hold meetings also for ventilating public grievances and for criticising the parliamentary activities of the Ministers. I am sure, if several people form into a procession without previous notice to authorities concerned and without obtaining permission, meet a Minister and then congratulate him on some of his good public performances, they will not be considered guilty under the Defence of India Act or Rules. I am also positive that neither the Act nor the Rules contemplate that officers, empowered under the aforesaid Order of the Governor, have any discretion for withholding permission which seems only formal if such permission relates to holding of meetings or organising of processions not meant for furtherance of prejudicial acts. I may quote here the "explanation" portion under sub-section 2 (*b*) of section 2 in Chapter II of the Defence of India Act for further clarifying the intention and purposes of the Act.

"To point out, without malicious intention and with an honest view to their removal, matters which are producing or have a tendency to produce feelings of enmity or hatred between different classes of His Majesty's subjects does not amount to promoting such feelings within the meaning of this clause."

I shall now place some facts and circumstances how the executive have abused their special and extraordinary powers intended to be used very cautiously and only in extraordinary matters contemplated by the rules.

A *khas mahal* Proja Conference was proposed at Alipur Duars in my district. The organisers petitioned the Deputy Commissioner for

necessary permission, laying down specifically the aims and objects of the Conference. I am quoting that portion of the letter which reads as follows:—

"I have the honour to bring to your kind notice that in view of the Floud Commission's recommendation regarding the forfeiture of the interests of the tenure-holders and other intermediate tenancies of this province, the rights of the *jotedars* and *chukanidars* of the Western Duars are likely to be greatly affected in the near future. Moreover, owing to the non-applicability of all the provisions of the Bengal Tenancy Act in the Western Duars, the *jotedars* and the *chukanidars* of this place are experiencing a great deal of hardships and the Projas of the Western Duars are therefore willing to hold a Conference at Alipur Duars to discuss about their various grievances and to send up a memorandum to the Bengal Government for the removal of their grievances. This Conference, we beg to let you know, is purely a Conference for the discussions of the economic conditions of the *jotedars*, *chukanidars* and other Projas and has nothing to do with the present war affairs or any other political matter of the province coming within the purview of the Defence of India Act."

That is, it was only to tabulate the existing handicap on the *jotedars* and *chukanidars* and to send up a memorandum to the Government. Its purpose was neither to rouse class hatred nor to create any anti-feeling against any class of *capitalists*, but to ventilate the feelings of the people about some matters in which they themselves are vitally interested. The signatory of the petition is not connected with any political organisation, is a law-abiding citizen unconnected with anything tending to oppose the present Government. He is the leading pleader of the Bar, a big *jotedar* under the *khas mahal*, a controlling director of several tea companies. He gave the assurance that it would be purely a non-political Conference far less an assembly of persons making any deliberations about the present war.

The Deputy Commissioner at first granted permission for holding the Conference and after everything had been arranged for the Conference, he cancelled his permission and restrained the conveners lest their deliberations jeopardised the safety of India. He did not assign any reason for his strange withdrawal of permission.

Subsequently, when the Bengal Tenancy Amendment Bill, 1941, moved by me with the object of extending the Tenancy Act to the Western Duars, was circulated for eliciting public opinion, the public of the Western Duars most of whom are interested in the Bill, thought of laying their heads together to consider about the merits and demerits of the Bill in a meeting. The Deputy Commissioner was again approached. I am reading the petition:—

"With reference to your letter, dated the 12th July, 1940, cancelling the order accorded by you on the 4th June, 1940, on a petition of

Babu Bidhu Bhusan Samaddar, dated the 27th May, 1940, to hold a *khas mahal* Proja Conference, we come to know through the Assembly that the order was cancelled only because it was discovered that the Conference was being organised to stir up discontent amongst the *khas mahal* Projas.

So far as to that, we can definitely assure you that it was not the case. The purpose of the Conference was concentrated only to make an attempt to raise our standard as Projas through proper channel, but unfortunately Government restrained us from such an attempt.

Now, we find in the Gazette, dated the 15th September, 1940, that an amendment Bill to the Bengal Tenancy Act has been put up by Mr. Khagendra Nath Das Gupta, M.L.A., of Jalpaiguri, and that it has been sent for eliciting public opinion as to whether the said Bengal Tenancy Act should be enforced here in the *khas mahal* areas.

Now that, to give light to what Government has given for public opinion and to have a discussion exclusively over the matter and to elicit public opinion it is necessary to hold a Conference by the 15th of December, 1940, and therefore I beg to request you to permit us to hold a Conference. In this matter, I assure you as before that the Conference will strictly be confined to such matters.

We hope that you will be kind enough to give us such formal permission to hold the Conference."

To this petition the Deputy Commissioner replied as follows:

"REFERENCE—Your application, dated the 22nd November, 1940.

I have enquired into the matter. I will not alter my previous decision. I refuse permission to hold the *khas mahal* Proja Conference.

If the *khas mahal* tenants have any grievances they can bring them to the notice of any Government officer at any time."

It is the reply. The Deputy Commissioner of Jalpaiguri, out of his supposed power acquired under the Defence of India Act, had thus prohibited the holding of the *khas mahal* Proja Conference for the specific purpose of discussing the Bengal Tenancy Bill which was then in circulation for eliciting public opinion. Sir, the circulation of a Bill for eliciting public opinion is absolutely meaningless if the public is debarred from meeting together to discuss about it. The Deputy Commissioner of Jalpaiguri proposed that if the people had any grievance they must individually send it on to him or to his subordinates. This is simplification and individual attention with a vengeance! Are we to abolish all parliamentary machinery like a Conference of the people and proceed along the time-worn paths of autocracy dangerously allied to dictatorships?

Unless a serious restraint is put on the executives and unless it is hammered into their zealous brain that the Defence of India Act is only

for the successful prosecution of the war, you will not be surprised if the existing Civil and Criminal Laws are kept in abeyance and every action of the people is brought within the purview of the Defence of India Act and its Rules.

Enquiry about holiday due to lunar eclipse.

Mr. ATUL KRISHNA GHOSE: Sir, may I draw your attention to the question that I raised the other day about declaring the 14th instant as a holiday on account of lunar eclipse on the previous night? Will you please give your decision with regard to this matter? I would like to convey to you and through you to the Hon'ble Minister in charge that mufassal lawyers and bar associations and schools and colleges will observe that day as a holiday, and we would like to know whether we will have a holiday on that day.

Mr. SPEAKER: I am sorry, I forgot about it. The difficulty is that the period for budget discussion is fixed by rules and if a holiday intervenes you lose a day. Government will be perfectly willing to have 14 days of discussion; if you are prepared to reduce it, I have no objection.

Mr. SASANKA SEKHAR SANYAL: In that case, Sir, we are not prepared to lose an important day.

DEMAND FOR GRANT.

General Administration.

(At this stage the Hon'ble Sir Bijoy Prasad Singh Roy rose to reply.)

Mr. SASANKA SEKHAR SANYAL: Sir, will it not be better if you now take up the next item after motion No. 9 of Mr. Surendra Nath Biswas, *i.e.*, motion No. 17 of Mr. Nishitha Nath Kundu? There are certain points which are common to both the motions.

Mr. SPEAKER: I think, he will not move his motion.

Mr. SASANKA SEKHAR SANYAL: He will move, Sir.

Mr. SPEAKER: If he moves, let Sir Bijoy reply first to this motion and then let him move his motion. But if he wants to speak on this motion, then let him do so now. I think that would be better.

Mr. SASANKA SEKHAR SANYAL: If he formally moves and speaks generally, Sir?

Mr. SPEAKER: The difficulty is, I want to avoid the members going to the lobby for nothing. There will be time left after Sir Bijoy makes his reply.

Mr. SASANKA SEKHAR SANYAL: I quite appreciate your point, Sir.

The Hon'ble Sir BIJOY PRASAD SINGH ROY: Sir, I shall try to reply in brief to the motion moved by Mr. Surendra Nath Biswas.

Sir, three issues have ben raised in this motion. First of all, the mover has tried to criticise the policy of Government as regards application of the Defence of India Rules; secondly, he has criticised the policy of Government as regards the granting of allowances to the victims thereof; and, thirdly, classification and treatment of prisoners. So these are the three issues that he has raised in this motion.

Sir, Mr. Biswas made a very sweeping and general criticism as regards the abuse of the powers conferred on Government under the Defence of India Rules. I can assure the House that it does not afford Government any pleasure to apply these rules and to restrict the freedom of movement to the citizens of this country. They do it with great reluctance and only when they are satisfied that the freedom of a particular person is inimical to the wider interest of the country.

Sir, I hope the House realises that we are passing through very abnormal times. Even in normal times there may be persons whose activities should be curtailed. But at present we are passing through a very serious and abnormal period of our history. Now the first and foremost concern of everybody in India and in the whole of the British Empire, I should say, is how to win the war and if anybody, whatever his position might be, tries to hamper the war efforts of Government or does anything which creates an atmosphere inimical to such war efforts, Government in the wider interest of the country cannot allow him to carry on his activities in those directions. So if we agree on this general principle, then I do not think that there should be any objection to the application of the powers conferred on Government under the Defence of India Rules. But some instances have been cited in which it is alleged that the powers have been abused. Mr. Biswas tried to argue that the rules had been used for restraining the activities of certain sections of the members of the public just to give undue latitude to members of another section of the public. I join issue with him. Powers have been given under these Rules to the District Magistrates so that they may make use of these powers whenever necessary. Sir, I maintain that the permanent officials of Government

have no politics. They do not look to the political views of a person; they do not look to the political views of the party in power. They do not try to give protection to persons simply because they happen to belong to a particular party or a particular community, but they have to carry on the administration fairly and honestly. I think, Sir, that in spite of all the criticisms that we have heard up till now in this country nobody—not even the worst enemies of Government or of the permanent officials—have yet suggested that the permanent officials —the members of the Indian Civil Service or the members of the Provincial Civil Service—are actuated by political or communal motives. (Maulvi ABU HOSSAIN SARKAR: Never, never.)

Mr. SANTOSH KUMAR BASU: What about Khagen Babu's allegations?

The Hon'ble Sir BIJOY PRASAD SINGH ROY: Sir, there may be black sheep here and there, but as one swallow does not make a summer, one black sheep does not really take away from the integrity, straightforwardness and honesty of the whole order.

Mr. SANTOSH KUMAR BASU: That is your answer about the Jalpaiguri black sheep!

The Hon'ble Sir BIJOY PRASAD SINGH ROY: I am coming to that. Mr. Basu need not be so impatient.

With regard to the Jalpaiguri Conference, the allegation was that my friend Mr. Khagendra Nath Das Gupta and his collaborators wanted to hold a meeting. (Mr. KHAGENDRA NATH DAS GUPTA: No, not I. I had no connection with that.) I stand corrected. A certain gentleman wanted to hold a meeting with a view to explain to the public of that place the desirability of the introduction of the Bengal Tenancy Act in that area and the District Magistrate was given full assurance that this meeting was not going to be of a political nature but merely for educating the public as regards the value of the Bengal Tenancy Act. Sir, I am perfectly certain that the District Magistrate, before he refused permission, or rather, to speak more correctly, before he withdrew the permission, was perfectly satisfied that things were not what they were supposed to be. Government's information is that there were certain communist leaders——(Mr. KHAGENDRA NATH DAS GUPTA: What, communist leaders in Alipur Duars subdivision!) Yes, and that they were bent upon preaching discontent amongst the people, and that they were out for mischief. I hope that my honourable friend, in spite of all his zeal for the extension of the rights of the tenants and *jotedars*, would realise the danger of allowing feelings to be aroused amongst the illiterate agriculturists in the

present circumstances of the country. Our information is that they were trying to create disaffection. Naturally, in the interest of law and order, in the wider interest of the country, in the interest of peace and tranquillity, in the interest of Government's war efforts, it was necessary to prohibit such a meeting. To those who still think that these war efforts are not necessary, to those who still hold the opinion, that India is outside the war zone and that we can remain indifferent to the serious struggle that has been raging in Europe, I have nothing to say. But those who are in charge of the administration of the country, those who are responsible for maintaining peace and tranquillity in this province cannot take that complacent attitude And it is their duty to see that no feeling is unnecessarily aroused, no atmosphere is created in which Government's war efforts are thwarted or in any way hampered (Mr. SANTOSH KUMAR BASU: Is it meant for the Chief Minister?)

In this view of the matter, Sir, I maintain that the District Magistrate had no other alternative than to refuse permission or to withdraw permission. The very fact that the Magistrate gave permission showed that he was anxious to meet the wishes of the applicant, but only when he was convinced that the situation was not as it was represented to him, he had to withdraw the permission.

The next point raised in this motion is about allowances to victims of the Defence of India Act. There is, Sir, a distinction between security prisoners and externed prisoners. Those who are externed outside the province according to the decision taken by Government are not entitled to any allowance. As regards those who are externed from a particular area in the province, Government may, if they so desire on facts, give them small allowances to compensate them for the loss of income. Of course they can claim no family allowance As regards the other prisoners, in certain cases family allowances have been allowed, but naturally Government cannot take a very generous and liberal view of this matter They have got to decide the question with due reference to the pecuniary condition of the family concerned and to the financial implications of their decision.

Sir, the last issue raised in this motion is about the classification and treatment of political prisoners Only the other day, I had the privilege of explaining fully on the floor of this House Government's difficulties in placing the political prisoners in a special class So, Sir, I do not propose to take the time of the House further on that point. The reply I gave then is, I hope, still fresh in the mind of my honourable friends opposite. So, I will only refer them to that reply. With these words, Sir, I oppose this motion.

The motion of Mr. Surendra Nath Biswas that the demand of Rs. 1,27,00,000 for expenditure under the head "25—General Administration" be reduced by Rs. 100, was then put and lost.

Mr. NISHITHA NATH KUNDU: Mr. Speaker, Sir, I beg to move that the demand of Rs. 1,27,00,000 for expenditure under the head "25—General Administration" be reduced by Rs. 100. The purpose of my motion is to raise a discussion about the methods of realisation of war contribution from the people of the province, particularly of the district of Dinajpur by the Government officials.

Sir, I attempted to raise a discussion over this issue as long back as in the month of November last through an adjournment motion which the Hon'ble Speaker disallowed and through a question which also he did not admit.

The mischief which I wanted to prevent by bringing this matter before this Assembly has to a great extent been already done. The intention with which I have moved this motion is to prevent any further mischief that may be done by the arbitrary methods that the Government officials, responsible and high officials, are using for realising war contributions from the people. We remember that the Hon'ble the Home Minister, Khwaja Sir Nazimuddin, on the floor of this House made it very clear to us that there would be no force or coercion on the part of anybody for realising such contributions. We all know that the people of the province are not in a very good financial position. They do not have two meals a day. They are really starving. If you scrutinise how these officials are realising money from the people in various districts you will be astonished that from these starving people they have been able to realise very, very large sums in the districts. It cannot be said that the people are willing parties to these contributions. Rather, they are financially unable to pay and the intelligent people who think about war, who feel, to tell this House frankly, that this war is not their war, that this war is not the war for upholding democracy, that this is not the war for the prosecution of which Indian opinion was consulted, will not find any inspiration to support these contributions. Then, how is it that these contributions are forthcoming? They have been made possible because of the coercion and force that are used by responsible officials. They are never voluntary contributions. Let me tell this House what they are doing. I will refer to one case which happened at Raiganj police-station in Dinajpur. There was a poor man who was approached for contributions by the Special Officer, Debt Settlement Board. He said that he had no surplus money to make any contributions towards war aims. He also frankly admitted that he had only two rupees with him to meet the medical expenses of his wife. He was made to pay that two rupees.

In the case of issuing temporary licences to give cinema shows in *melas* and *hâts*, it has been the custom of the officers to make it a condition precedent that they should contribute something towards the War Fund before any licence could be issued. I have got in my

possession a certified copy of a petition for such cinema licence. This petition was field on 19th November, 1940, for permission for giving a cinema show in a fair in (police-station) Raiganj. The Magistrate ordered an enquiry to find out if there was any other application of this nature. From the office came the reply that this was the only application asking for a licence. The Magistrate Mr. J. P. Roy ordered to the following effect: "Put up to-morrow." On the next day when this petition was placed before him for disposal, he was enquiring as to whether the petitioner was there. If the petitioner was not present, the case should be put up to him the following day. The clerk's report runs thus: "Sir, the applicant turned up yesterday, but he is absent to-day." This petition was filed through a pleader. The pleader was certainly present. After that the petition was rejected for the simple reason that the Magistrate could not meet the petitioner himself and had not the opportunity of extorting from him the so-called voluntary contribution. This is the kind of story that is coming from every district in this province.

My friend, Mr Surendra Nath Biswas, was telling us that in Faridpur some people refused to make any contribution. What happened next? They were served with a notice for revising their union rate under section 40 of the Union Board Act and actually the rate in their case was enhanced. They have filed cases in a Civil Court against this illegal order enhancing the rate.

In renewing gun licence, they are first realising contributions before renewing the licence. There are cases where as much as Rs. 50 had been realised from the licensee before he was given a renewal of gun licence. Probably the cost of the gun is only Rs. 50. But he had to pay for a renewal of the licence Rs. 50 to the War Fund.

In Berhampore I understand that the owners of the bus services have been instructed to levy some kind of tax on the usual fare and realise the same from the passengers along with the fare.

In Dinajpur even the *rickshaw wallas* whose income is very poor are forced to pay annas 8 per rickshaw for obtaining permission to ply from the municipality. There are cases again where the members of the Debt Settlement Boards have been asked to realise some amount from persons who will go there for settling their debts. There are cases where before a compromise in a criminal case is allowed to be effected, something is extorted from them. Union board members and other members of local institutions have been ordered by the Subdivisional Officers, and Circle Officers to realise from every rate-payer an amount equal to the rate they pay and in some cases half the amount they [illegible] as rate.

Sir I do not think that the Government policy is to realise contributions in this arbitrary and atrocious manner, and I also hope that the facts which I have placed before this House will be corroborated

by almost every member of this House. I can for the satisfaction of the members say this, that an enquiry by members belonging either to official or to non-official camps or both combined may be held to find out whether the allegations that I am making to-night before this House are true or not. I submit that in the case of Dinajpur I shall be able to substantiate every letter of what I have said here in this House, and I state these facts with all the responsibility that it involves. You know, Sir, that there are motor buses in every district which do not ply throughot the year: on occasions, such as Puja occasions, they ply through certain routes. For registering their buses under the Motor Vehicles Act the motor-owners have to pay a very heavy amount. It is only formal that they should ask for permission to ply through a particular route for, say, 2 or 3 days during those occasions. And what are the District Magistrate and other officials doing here before issuing such permission? They are asking them to pay a very heavy amount, sometimes Rs. 25, sometimes Rs 20, before they are given such permission, though this is only a formal matter for the District Magistrate.

I have also information that in the Sub-Registrar's office where documents are registered, the parties are made to pay for the war before these are accepted for registration. In Dinajpur these arbitrary methods of realisation are going on in full swing. The War Committee at Dinajpur town organised an oriental dance, and they probably spent 75 per cent. of the money they realised from the poor people as war contribution in giving remuneration to this dancing party. This was again a huge waste of money of a poor country. I have in my possession several notices issued by the Sadar Subdivisional Officer of Dinajpur asking almost every man in a village to see him in his residential quarters. In the notice the purpose of this visit was mentioned I will read out only one notice which was addressed to Babu Kshetra Mohan Das of Maharajpur:—

"You are requested to see me on 10th November, 1940, at 2 p.m. at my residence in connection with the Commissioner's visit to this district."

I do not understand how all the villagers of a particular village can be required to see the Subdivisional Officer for a matter in connection with the Commissioner's visit to Dinajpur. These men came to hand over this notice to me and reported that when they went there, they were asked to make contribution to the War Fund. Those who failed to go in response to such a notice on that date were asked again to appear. Another notice was issued to these persons I am reading from one of such second notices served on Babu Kshetra Mohan Das of Maharajpur:—

মহাশয়, আপনাকে গত ১০।১১।৪০ তারিখে আমার সহিত সাক্ষাত করিবার জন্য পত্র দিয়াছিলাম। কিন্তু দুঃখের বিষয় আপনি উক্ত তারিখে আমার সহিত দেখা করেন নাই

এই নোটিশ দ্বারা অদ্য পুনরায় ১৩।১১।৪০ তারিখে বেলা ২$\frac{১}{২}$ ঘটিকার সময় আমার সহিত আমার বাসায় দেখা কবার জন্য অনুরোধ করা যাইতেছে। বিভাগীয় Commissioner সাহেবের অত্র জেলায় আগমন সম্পর্কে যথা সময়ে দেখা করিতে অন্যথা করিবেন না।

Sir, this is the kind of notice they were served with.

(At this stage the honourable member reached his time-limit.)

One minute, Sir, and I will finish If there is any sanctity in the utterances made by the Hon'ble the Home Minister on the floor of this House, I could only expect that the Hon'ble Minister in charge will kindly enquire into the matter and see if this misrule—I should not call it misrule, because that is also some kind of rule—this no-rule, this anarchy is prevailing all over the province and thereby putting the people to a great deal of harassment. With these few words, Sir, I commend my motion for the acceptance of the House

√**Mr. SATYAPRIYA BANERJI:** Sir, in rising to support the cut motion moved by my honourable friend Mr. Nishitha Nath Kundu regarding the method of realisation of war contribution, I will just place before the members of the House documents which will go clearly to demonstrate that the policy enunciated on the floor of this House during the autumn session last year by the Hon'ble Khwaja Sir Nazimuddin is one thing and the manner in which that policy is carried out by the officers of the Government is quite a different thing Sir, I will now read out the documents to you:—

From—The President, Piprul Union Board, P. O. Patul, district Rajshahi,

To—Certain members (I will not mention the names)

মহাশয়, এতদ্বারা আপনাদিগকে জানান যাইতেছে যে District Magistrate সাহেব বাহাদুর ও S. D. O. সাহেব বাহাদুরের আদেশ এই যে প্রত্যেকের চৌকিদারী tax যাহা ধার্য্য আছে সেই পরিমাণ টাকা প্রত্যেককে যুদ্ধের সাহায্য বাবদ গভর্ণমেণ্টকে দিতে হইবে। গভর্ণমেণ্ট বাহাদুরের রাজ্যে বাস করিয়া তাঁহার সুখ দুঃখের অংশীদার সকলকেই হইতে হইবে, এটা সকলেরই স্মরণ রাখা কর্ত্তব্য। বর্ত্তমান যুদ্ধ সঙ্কটে সকলেই বিপদাপন্ন। এই বিপদ হইতে রক্ষা পাইতে হইলে সকলকেই একটু কষ্ট স্বীকার করিতে হইবে, নতুবা উপায় নাই। এই যুদ্ধ বিষয়ে যে সমস্ত ব্যক্তি সাহায্য দান করিবেন তাঁহারা যে রাজ সরকারের পরম হিতৈষী বান্ধব এটা তিনি স্বীকার করিতে বাধ্য হইবেন। আর যে ব্যক্তি তদ্বাবদ্ বৃথা বক্তৃতা করিয়া সাহায্য না দিবেন তাহা হইলে সে রাজ সরকারের পরম শত্রু বলিয়া পরিগণিত হইবে। সর্ব্ব স্থানেই ঐ পরিমাণ সাহায্য আদায় হইয়াছে। সুতরাং আমাদের ইউনিয়নেও ঐ পরিমাণ টাকা যাহাতে আপনারা উৎসাহ সহকারে দান করিতে পারেন তজ্জন্য যত্নবান হইবেন। এবং যাহারা সাহায্য না দিয়া বৃথা বক্তৃতা করিয়া কাজের ক্ষতি করিবেন তাহাদের নাম লিখিয়া অত্র Boardএ

জানাইবেন। এই সাহায্যের টাকা ১৫ই আশ্বিনের মধ্যে আদায় শেষ করিতে হইবে। সে নিমিত্ত অনুরোধ করি যে আপনারা সকলেই বৃটিশ গভর্ণমেণ্টের প্রজা। তিনি এতাবত আপনাদের নিকট যে সাহায্য লইতেছেন তজ্জন্য আপনারা ধন্যবাদ গ্র্যহন করিবেন। এই নোটিশ অমান্য করিয়া যে ব্যক্তি সাহায্য দিবেন না বা কাহাকেও দিতে বাধা দিবেন এইরূপ ব্যক্তিকে তৎক্ষণাৎ মহকুমা Magistrate সাহেব বা জিলা Magistrate সাহেবের নিকট পাঠাইতে হইবে। এটা বিশেষ জরুরী জানিবেন। সত্বর যাহাতে এক সপ্তাহের মধ্যে টাকাগুলি আদায় হয় তাহা সকলকেই করিতে হইবে। আবার যাহাদের বন্দুক আছে—তাহাদের দু'নলা বন্দুকের সাহায্য ১৫৲ আর এক নলা বন্দুকের সাহায্য ১০৲ না দিলে তাহাদের বন্দুকের লাইসেন্স নষ্ট হইয়া যাইবে। একটী কথা ধরিয়া লইবেন যে এই সাহায্য বাবদ আমাদের সম্র্যাটকে ১মন কিম্বা ১$\frac{১}{২}$ মণ পাট সাহায্য করিলাম। এই সামান্য সাহায্যের জন্য কেহ নিরুৎসাহ বা হতাশ হইয়া স্থানে স্থানে বক্তৃতা দিয়া লোককে নিরুৎসাহ না করেন। যদি এইরূপ কোন লোকের প্রমান পাওয়া যায় তবে সে গুরুতর দণ্ডে দণ্ডিনীয় হইবে জানিবেন।

মহাশয়, এতদ্বারা আপনাকে জানান যায় যে আমি অত্র ইউনিয়নের যুদ্ধের চাঁদা আদায়কারীর ও দফাদারের নিকট অবগত হইলাম যে আপনি লোককে যুদ্ধের চাঁদা আদায় দিতে নিষেধ করিতেছেন এবং নিজেও দিতেছেন না। অতএব আপনি এই নোটিশ পাওয়া মাত্র ২৪ ঘণ্টার মধ্যে অনুগ্রহ পূর্ব্বক আমার সঙ্গে দেখা করিয়া বাধিত করিবেন ও আপনার নিজের চাঁদাও আদায়কারীর নিকট আদায় দিবেন। অন্যথা আপনাকে গভর্ণমেণ্ট বিরোধী বলিয়া আপনার বিরুদ্ধে রিপোর্ট করিতে বাধ্য হইব।

ইতি—

President Sukdebpur Union Board No. 1.

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Sir, this is the way in which war contributions are being realised from the people of this province. If this is not coercion, I do not know what coercion or intimidation is.

The Hon'ble Mr. A. K. FAZLUL HUQ: Sir, I must confess that I was not able to follow all the speeches that have been delivered. (Cries of "Why?" from the Opposition Benches.) But I gathered that the sum and substance of the allegation is that in some places—— (Mr. SASANKA SEKHAR SANYAL: No, in all places.)——all over Bengal? (Mr. SASANKA SEKHAR SANYAL: Yes, all over Bengal of which you are the Chief Minister.)——subscriptions are being raised in aid of war funds. (Mr. SASANKA SEKHAR SANYAL: By coercion.) All that I can say to that universal affirmative proposition is that I am ready to give an emphatic denial. (Laughter and cries of "Oh! oh!" from the Opposition Benches.) Sir, the policy of Government has been to induce people to realise the gravity of the situation and to do

everything about the war and the necessity of India's preparing herself in case of an emergency—at any rate to defend her own country. For all these purposes, money is required, but if I can say from personal experience comparing what happened during the last war with what is happening now, I must say that less effort is being made now for realisation of money for war funds than on the last occasion. It may be that in some places officers have been a little overzealous and they may have tried to use means to raise money in order to swell the contribution which they may have collected, but I must tell this House that, so far as Government are concerned, they would look with extreme disfavour on any effort on the part of any officer of Government to have recourse to anything like coercion. The speeches that have been delivered are extremely helpful They will give us an opportunity of making enquiries, and if we find that any officer has acted in contravention of the distinct orders of Government or instructions conveyed to them from time to time, we will take sufficient steps to see that these things are not repeated and that these things may not happen in future. Beyond that, Sir, I cannot say anything. There may be some truth. I cannot say that these allegations are absolutely false or unfounded. Possibly, they are not. We shall make enquiries, and we shall issue instructions so that there may be no cause for complaint on this score.

The motion of Mr. Nishitha Nath Kundu that the demand of Rs 1,27,00,000 for expenditure under the head "25—General Administration" be reduced by Rs. 100, was then put and lost.

Mr. SYED JALALUDDIN HASHEMY: Sir, generally speaking, the general administration of this province is generally bad——

Mr. SPEAKER: Mr. Hashemy, before you make a general statement, you must move your motion first.

Mr. SYED JALALUDDIN HASHEMY: Yes, Sir. I beg to move that the demand of Rs. 1,27,00,000 for expenditure under the head "25—General Administration" be reduced by Rs. 100.

Sir, the general administration is good so far as the European interest is concerned—European interest in business, European interest in banking, European interest in education, and so on and so forth. It is better so far as the interests of the capitalists and the vested interests are concerned. It is best so far as the Muslim League organisations in this province are concerned. It is worst, Sir, so far as the interests of the teeming millions—I mean the cultivators and labourers—are concerned.

Sir, my subject is travelling expenses of Ministers. The Hon'ble the Finance Minister is here.* I hope that he will give me some light at least so far as the amount of travelling expenses of Ministers are

concerned. We have made a modest estimate as we found in reply to a question that it is equal to the salary of a Minister, if not more, of course including the expenses of the executive officers and police officers when they attend the Ministers in the mufassal. A Minister will go to Ajmer and ask for the blessings of Shah Sahib of that Darga and the Public Exchequer will pay for it. A Minister will go to Madras to attend a meeting of the Muslim League and the Public Exchequer must pay for it. A Minister will go to Bombay, a Minister will go to Lahore, a Minister will go to Delhi, and Gouri Sen must pay for all these. (Laughter.) Ministers will go to Darjeeling when Government is temporarily shifted to Darjeeling. The funniest part of the whole thing is that Ministers will come back to Calcutta on grounds of health, and they will draw daily allowances for halt in Calcutta also. I hope that the Finance Minister will contradict me if I am wrong.

There is another type of Ministers who will go to their country residences and the Public Exchequer must pay for that.

Now, Sir, I am not much concerned with the travelling expenses of Ministers so far as the Public Exchequer is concerned. But I am very much concerned with another type of expenditure. Wherever these Ministers go, generally a Reception Committee is formed either in the district or in the subdivision or in the thana and either the District Officer or the Subdivisional Officer or the Circle Officer, as the case may be, have to organise a Reception Committee. I can say, Sir, from my personal experience that the Reception Committee realises subscriptions from Rs. 500 to Rs. 5,000. Only the other day, the Hon'ble Mr. Tamizuddin Khan went to a certain place which is very well known as the saline part of the district of Khulna. I can tell you, Sir, from my own knowledge that the poor people of that saline area had to collect Rs. 600 for his reception. You will be surprised to learn, Sir, that lunch was taken not from Khulna, nor from Jessore; the lunch was taken from Firpo, and what is called the Great Eastern Hotel.

Mr. SPEAKER: It seems, Mr. Hashemy, that you are not sure of the lunch position. (Laughter.)

Mr. SYED JALALUDDIN HASHEMY: Sir, what is it that the Reception Committee generally do? In the name of the Minister, the District Magistrate, the Subdivisional Officer and the Circle Officers go round and realise money first from members of union boards, debt settlement boards, jute committees and they go further down to the shop-keepers and other people. I can tell, Sir, from my personal experience, the name of the place as well as the name of the

Minister. If there is honesty, I can say that if the matter is enquired into, it will be found that in every place this money is realised by the officers concerned simply by coercion and nothing else. (The Hon'ble Mr. A. K. FAZLUL HUQ: Did you ever contribute?) (Rai HARENDRA NATH CHAUDHURY: He is above coercion.) It is fortunate for me that no Minister has gone to my constituency yet except the Hon'ble Maharaja Srischandra Nandy. (The Hon'ble Mr. H. S. SUHRAWARDY: I am going.) I shall welcome the Hon'ble the Finance Minister in my constituency, provided no money is realised from the poor people of Satkhira. (Laughter.) We have a right to know from the Hon'ble Finance Minister how the money is spent from the Public Exchequer with regard to the travelling expenses of the Hon'ble Ministers. I forgot to mention another type of Ministers They go in a first class reserved compartment but pay only second class charge, and then they pay the excess fare. I therefore say, "Enough of these tours and enough of these travelling expenses." I appeal to the Hon'ble Ministers to spend at least the remaining portion of their term of office in a way which will be beneficial to the people of Bengal. Why have they been travelling so long and so much? There are District Magistrates, there are Subdivisional Officers; there are Commissioners and there are other officers also They are all doing their work properly. At least the Ministers say so. The Hon'ble Sir Bijoy Prasad Singh Roy has just now stated that the administration is going on properly. What is the need for Hon'ble Ministers to go on tour and incur all these unnecessary expenses not only from the Public Exchequer but also from the people at large? Why do they go on tour? Sir, it is simply for party propaganda and nothing else. I had an occasion to travel with a Minister in a certain district. (Mr SASANKA SEKHAR SANYAL: et tu Brute!) People assemble there. Meetings are held and speeches are made But up till now what is the real benefit they have been able to render to the toiling millions of Bengal, cultivators and labourers It they mean business, if they want to go and see the condition of the people themselves with their own eyes, let them go at their own expense. They are sufficiently highly paid for that. They get a sufficient amount in the shape of salary. I shall tell another incident from my personal experience The other day there was a bye-election in a certain district in Bengal a month or so ago. At least half-a-dozen Ministers went there not only once but each Minister twice May I ask the Hon'ble Finance Minister to tell this House whether they went there—I hope the Hon'ble Finance Minister follows me—whether they went there at their own cost or at the cost of Government. This is a pertinent question and we have a right to know that. Let the Hon'ble Finance Member say when he replies. Only the other day during the election of the District Board in Dacca, Minister after Minister went there. Was it at their personal cost or at the cost of Government?

One more instance and I will finish. Ministers go to Murapara, Ministers go to Narayanganj and Dacca, and they go to other places. The result is that the sentiments of the poor Muslims are roused. The result is that the poor Muslims are murdered by police shots. The Ministers go to Azimganj and preach their gospel. The public get excited. Their sentiments are aroused. The net result is that the poor Muslims are fired at and killed. This is the net result of the tours of Ministers. Wherever they have gone, communal harmony has been disturbed. I can also say from my personal experience that they have never gone anywhere with a clean mind. They have gone only with a prejudiced mind and therefore the communal harmony has been disturbed. This is the net result of the tours of Hon'ble Ministers. Therefore, I would beg of them to cry a halt to this sort of travelling and to sit down and look to the administration through the District Officers.

The Hon'ble Mr. H. S. SUHRAWARDY: Sir, Mr. Syed Jalaluddin Hashemy has moved this motion more for the purpose of attacking the Ministers personally than on grounds of policy. To what extent I shall deal with his attacks in an impersonal manner still remains to be seen. One pertinent question arises from his speech and it is to this effect: Why do Ministers go from place to place? The answer is that we go from place to place because we are invited to do so. To every one invitation that we accept, we have to refuse a dozen, and I would like to assure the House that even that one that we accept we do so only when the pressing invitation of our friends leaves us no other alternative. Wherever we go, even if it is to support a bye-election, we explain the policy of Government, everywhere we perform a public duty; and at every meeting we find it desirable to respond to the wishes of the people who wish to hear what we are doing and what we propose to do. (Rai HARENDRA NATH CHAUDHURI: And what you have left undone.) They bring to us what they are pleased to call their *abhab* and *abhijog* for our consideration. These tours give us an opportunity of meeting people and of learning what their difficulties are, and I think I can say with a fairly clean conscience, not merely that what we have learnt in these tours have been of the greatest value to us, but that we have attempted to the best of our ability to rectify those little difficulties, their *abhab* and *abhijog* as much as possible. (Mr. SANTOSH KUMAR BASU: And *jalajog* and *golajog*!) I can assure you that the people want us to speak to them; they too want to talk to us, and they want an opportunity of meeting us. And I found also that our tours had been useful in other directions as well. We have found that mischievous persons who are the enemies of the people also carry on mischievous and false propaganda against us and the Government. People wish to know what truth underlies all such propaganda. We are in a

position to dispel all the lies and mischievous statements made by such mischievous people, and I think it has certainly been for the benefit of the people of Bengal.

Mr. Jalaluddin Hashemy then went on to say that certain Reception Committees, particularly of the saline area, had collected somewhere about Rs. 500 or Rs. 5,000. The very vagueness of his allegations shows that we have got to take this statement, as my friend opposite has pointed out, with a grain of salt. We desire to assure the House and through this House the public outside that we deprecate any reception where money may be spent upon us, and at every meeting I have requested the public not to spend money on addresses or on garlands or on receptions or on tea parties. It is quite enough that they give us an opportunity to speak to them, and we give them an opportunity to speak to us. And I do not think that it is at all fair on the part of Mr Jalaluddin Hashemy to charge our officers with resorting to coercive measures as if people do not desire to receive us or to pay for the reception of the Ministers, but that they only do so at the point of the bayonet. But this is, of course, similar to the charge that thousands and thousands of people whom we have the good fortune of addressing are coerced to attend our meeting—coerced at the point of the bayonet by the District Magistrates or Subdivisional Officers; because that coercion apparently being wanting when Mr. Jalaluddin Hashemy addresses meetings, he thinks that they cannot come on account of their natural desire to meet those who are to some extent in a position to guide their destinies and possibly to help them in their difficulties.

Sir, there was a charge against Ministers who buy second class tickets and travel first class. It was, I think, a somewhat mean and ill-natured charge, and I believe, Sir, it was particularly directed towards me, as there was some controversy in the papers with regard to that. I had thought that the reply which I caused to be sent to the papers, a reply based on the report of my confidential assistant or stenographer, would have been sufficient to shut the mouths of such mean and ill-natured people. Sir, my honourable friends should know that Ministers leave the arrangements for the journey to their stenographers or confidential assistants. I am not aware if within the last four years I have ever had the good fortune of purchasing a ticket for myself at the railway counter. My stenographer or confidential assistant makes all the arrangements. Fortunately we are in such a position that we find all the arrangements made for us; the berth is reserved for us; beds are prepared for us; policemen and sergeants attend on us—whether you like it or not. This is what actually happens, and so far as the arrangements about our tickets, servants and luggage are concerned, it is left entirely to our officers

whose duty it is to see that it is properly done for us. If an officer makes a mistake, I have two alternatives—I should either dismiss him for his negligence or accept his explanation. And the explanation which he gave us was that he took the ticket with the change without looking at them, and ran up to the train for which he was late. I should either dismiss him for his negligence or accept his apology, and I prefer to accept his apology and not take away the bread of a person for what appears to me to be a mistake. But if the honourable members on the other side think that his fault is so gross that he should be deprived of his post, I shall be very glad to receive a requisition from them to that effect when I shall take the necessary steps. I do not think that this is necessary, merely because the confidential assistant has had the misfortune of making a mistake; still I may have to take that step if honourable members should continue to charge the Ministers as a class with dishonesty, which, as I have said already, is a mean and ill-natured charge. Sir, I think the point has been satisfactorily answered.

Sir, I must congratulate myself that for the first time we have had the benefit of certain observations regarding retrenchment. I have told the House on several occasions to place before us concrete proposals, but hitherto they have avoided it. For the first time Mr. Manmatha Nath Roy has placed before us a catalogue of possible retrenchments. Most of these are of a perennial nature, in fact, they are hoary chestnuts; we have dealt with each one of them; we have rejected some of them; and some are obviously impossible. The Government has examined each proposal fully, but, as I have said before, we examine them again from time to time, and we shall continue to examine them as long as there is a possibility of change in our conditions. Now, take a suggestion by the honourable member that the Board of Revenue should be abolished, and that the Ministers should take on its work. It is no use examining a proposal of this type. In revenue and fiscal matters there must be an appellate body outside the Government and outside the Ministry. That, I believe, is provided for in section 276 of the Government of India Act, and therefore the Board of Revenue cannot be abolished. Revenue appeals must go to such a body. But if you tell us that the maximum salary of Bengal Civil Service officers should be reduced, that is a matter which may be taken up for consideration. We have considered it. You point out to us that in other provinces, and I think you particularly mentioned Madras, the maximum salary is lower than the maximum salary in this province. But if you be good enough to look—and I think Mr. Sarker knows something about it—at the starting salaries, it will be seen that our starting salaries are very much lower than the starting salaries of the officers of other provinces. So that on the whole we spend less on the pay of officers than is spent

in other provinces where the starting salary is higher though the maximum salary is lower. But such matters may , continue to be considered.

There is the usual chestnut of the abolition of the posts of Commissioners. We have pointed out that this is a big province and that we need some persons between Government and the local officers, some persons who should be in a position to supervise their work. Every district official is not experienced in the work of a district, and it has been found very useful that a senior official should be in a position to guide the district officials and particularly now when on every side most difficult situations arise owing to matters of which all of us are aware. Then, there are a large number of statutory duties which these Divisional Commissioners have to perform. In order to abolish these posts—and I do not know to what extent you can do this—it is necessary to obtain the concurrence of people outside India; but even if you could abolish the posts, you will have to distribute these statutory powers to others and you may have to create other officers. So, on the whole, the expenses may not be less; only the posts may be abolished, and we shall lose the services and the guidance of a body of officials who have gained considerable experience in the administrative field.

Rai HARENDRA NATH CHAUDHURI: They have done it in Assam.

The Hon'ble Mr. H. S. SUHRAWARDY: They have not been able to do it in Assam They tried to do it, but could not succeed

Mr. SANTOSH KUMAR BASU: They have retrenched one out of two.

The Hon'ble Mr. H. S. SUHRAWARDY: I think Assam is a much smaller province than Bengal, and if Assam could have three Divisional Commissioners still the proportion in Bengal of five is not too great.

Mr. SANTOSH KUMAR BASU: They had got two; that means they have retrenched 50 per cent.

The Hon'ble Mr. H. S. SUHRAWARDY: Even the ratio of 5 to 2 is in Bengal's favour.

Now, Sir, a suggestion was made that the posts of Director of Public Information and the Secretary to Government in the Education Department can be amalgamated. This was tried and it has been found that to combine Secretariat posts with technical posts has not been very successful. But these are matters that may still continue to be considered.

Then, a point was raised regarding the Cinchona Department which showed how little honourable members know regarding the administrative machinery. The honourable member says that what we want is intensive production and not increase of officers. Sir, you cannot get intensive production in cinchona in the course of a year. You have got to have officers who have got to lay out the land, who have got to afforest the land; thereafter you must wait for the bark for 8 years and then you will get full production in 14 years. This is not very complimentary to the Opposition, which is most anxious to help us with constructive criticism I regret that having misunderstood the scope of the reorganisation of the Cinchona Department they have gone to the length of criticising a most beneficent measure.

Now, Sir, there is another point. They criticise us for having spent 24 lakhs of rupees on regulation of jute.

Mr. SPEAKER: Mr. Suhrawardy, you must finish your speech now. It is getting late.

The Hon'ble Mr. H. S. SUHRAWARDY: Just as you like, Sir. I thought that the Opposition desired that we should go in for regulation.

Mr. SPEAKER: This you can mention during jute discussion

The motion of Mr. Manmatha Nath Roy that the demand of Rs. 1,27,00,000 for expenditure under the head "25—General Administration" be reduced by Rs. 100 was then put and a division taken the following result:—

AYES—35.

Abdul Hakeem, Mr.
Abdul Wahed, Maulvi.
Abu Hossain Sarkar, Maulvi.
Asimuddin Ahmed, Mr.
Banerji, Mr. Satya Priya.
Barma, Babu Premhari.
Barma, Mr. Puspajit.
Barman, Babu Shyama Prosad.
Basu, Mr. Santosh Kumar.
Biswas, Mr. Surendra Nath.
Bose, Mr. Sarat Chandra.
Chaudhuri, Rai Harendra Nath.
Das Gupta, Babu Khagendra Nath.
Emdadul Haque, Kazi.
Giasuddin Ahmed, Mr.
Hasan Ali Chowdhury, Mr. Syed.
Jalaluddin Hashemy, Mr. Syed.
Jonab Ali Majumdar, Maulvi.
Khan, Mr. Debendra Lall.
Kumar, Mr. Atul Chandra.
Kundu, Mr. Nishitha Nath.
Majumdar, Mrs. Hemaprova.

Mandal, Mr. Jogendra Nath.
Maniruzzaman Islamabadi, Maulana Md.
Nasker, Mr. Hem Chandra.
Nausher Ali, Mr. Syed.
Ramizuddin Ahmed, Mr.
Roy, Mr. Charu Chandra.
Roy, Mr. Manmatha Nath.
Sanyal, Mr. Sasanka Sekhar.
Shahedali, Mr.
Shamsuddin Ahmed, Mr. M.
Singha, Babu Kshetra Nath.
Waliur Rahman, Maulvi.
Zaman, Mr. A. M. A.

NOES—87.

Abdul Aziz, Maulana Md.
Abdul Hafiz, Mr. Mia.
Abdul Hakim, Maulvi.
Abdul Hakim Vikrampuri, Maulvi Md.
Abdul Hamid, Mr. A. M.
Abdul Karim, Mr.
Abdul Wahab Khan, Mr.
Abdur Rahman Siddiqi, Mr.
Abdur Rasheed, Maulvi Md.
Abdur Rauf, Khan Bahadur Maulvi S.
Abdur Rauf, Khan Bahadur Shah.
Abdur Razzak, Maulvi.
Abdus Shaheed, Maulvi Md.
Abul Hashim, Maulvi.
Abul Quasem, Maulvi.
Ahmed Ali Mridha, Maulvi.
Ahmed Hosain, Mr.
Aftazuddin Ahmed, Khan Bahadur Maulvi.
Aminullah, Khan Sahib Maulvi.
Amir Ali Mia, Maulvi Md.
Anwarul Azim, Khan Bahadur Md.
Ashrafali, Mr. M.
Aulad Hossian Khan, Khan Bahadur Maulvi.
Azhar Ali, Maulvi.
Barat Ali, Mr. Md.
Bell-Hart, Miss P. B.
Birkmyre, Sir Henry, Bart.
Biswas, Mr. Rasik Lal.
Chippendale, Mr. J. W.
Clark, Mr. I. A.
Das, Rai Sahib Kirit Bhusan.
Farhat Bano Khanam, Begum.
Fazlul Huq, the Hon'ble Mr. A. K.
Fazlul Quadir, Khan Bahadur Maulvi.
Fazlur Rahman, Mr. (Dacca).
Fazlur Rahman, Mr. (Mymensingh).
Gladding, Mr. D.
Gurung, Mr. Damber Singh.
Gyasuddin Ahmed Choudhury, Alhadj.
Habibullah, the Hon'ble Nawab Bahadur K., of Dacca.
Hafizuddin Choudhuri, Maulvi.
Hamiduddin Ahmad, Khan Sahib.
Hamilton, Mr. K. A.
Hashem Ali Khan, Khan Bahadur Maulvi.
Hatemally Jamadar, Khan Sahib Maulvi.
Heywood, Mr. Rogers.
Hirtzel, Mr. M. A. F.
Idris Ahmed Mia, Maulvi.
Jalaluddin Ahmad, Khan Bahadur Maulvi.
Kabiruddin Khan, Khan Bahadur Maulvi.
Kazem Ali Mirza, Sahibzada Kawan Jah Syed.
Kennedy, Mr. I. G.
Mafizuddin Ahmed, Maulvi.
Maguire, Mr. L. T.
Mandal, Mr. Birat Chandra.
Mandal, Mr. Jagat Chandra.
Maniruddin Akhand, Maulvi.
Mohammed Ali, Khan Bahadur.
Morgan, Mr. G.
Moslem Ali Mollah, Maulvi M.
Muhammad Israil, Maulvi.
Muhammad Siddique, Khan Bahadur Dr. Syed.
Mullick, the Hon'ble Mr. Mukunda Behary.
Mullick, Mr. Pulin Behary.
Mustagawsal Haque, Mr. Syed.
Nandy, the Hon'ble Maharaja Srischandra, of Cossimbazar.
Nasarullah, Nawabzada K.
Patton, Mr. W. C.
Rahman, Khan Bahadur A. M. L.
Raikut, the Hon'ble Mr. Prasanna Deb.
Roy, Mr. Patiram.
Sadaruddin Ahmed, Mr.
Sahebe-Alam, Mr. Syed.
Salim, Mr. S. A.
Sarkar, Babu Madhusudan.
Serajul Islam, Mr.
Shahabuddin, Mr. Khwaja, C.B.E.
Stark, Mr. A. F.
Spolter, Mr. J. H.
Sinclair, Mr. J. F.
Sirdar, Babu Litta Munda.
Suhrawardy, the Hon'ble Mr. H. S.
Tamizuddin Khan, the Hon'ble Mr.
Tofel Ahmed Choudhury, Maulvi Haji.
Walker, Mr. W. A. M.
Wordsworth, Mr. W. C.
Yusuf Ali Choudhury, Mr.

The Ayes being 35 and the Noes 87, the motion was lost.

The motion of Mr Syed Jalaluddin Hashemy that the demand of Rs. 1,27,00,000 under the head "25—General Administration" be reduced by Rs. 100 was then put and lost.

Mr. SPEAKER: As the time is over, I shall now put the main demand, all other motions being guillotined.

The motion of the Hon'ble the Chief Minister that the demand for a sum of Rs. 1,27,00,000 be granted for expenditure under the head "25—General Administration" was then put and agreed to.

Adjournment.

It being 8 p.m.—

The House was adjourned till 4-45 p.m. on Wednesday, the 12th March, 1941, at the Assembly House, Calcutta.

Proceedings of the Bengal Legislative Assembly assembled under the provisions of the Government of India Act, 1935.

THE ASSEMBLY met in the Assembly House, Calcutta, on Wednesday, the 12th March, 1941, at 4-45 p.m.

Present:

Mr. Speaker (the Hon'ble Sir MUHAMMAD AZIZUL HAQUE, C.I.E., Khan Bahadur) in the Chair, seven Hon'ble Ministers and 183 members.

STARRED QUESTIONS

(to which oral answers were given)

Outbreak of malaria and other diseases in the district of Murshidabad.

*149. **Mr. SASANKA SEKHAR SANYAL:** (a) Will the Hon'ble Minister in charge of the Public Health and Local Self-Government Department be pleased to state—

(i) whether during the current Bengali year there has been a heavy outbreak of malaria and other diseases in the district of Murshidabad as also a heavy death toll taken by such diseases;

(ii) the arrangements made by the District Board of Murshidabad for meeting the situation; and

(iii) whether attention of the Government has been drawn to the situation aforesaid?

(b) If so, will the Hon'ble Minister be pleased to state the steps taken by Government to cope with the situation?

(c) Will the Hon'ble Minister please lay on the table copies of the correspondence that has passed between Government and the Health Department of the District Board in the matter?

MINISTER in charge of the PUBLIC HEALTH and LOCAL SELF-GOVERNMENT DEPARTMENT (the Hon'ble Nawab Khwaja Habibullah Bahadur, of Dacca: (a) (i) So far as cases of malaria and kala-azar are concerned, the answer is in the affirmative; but as regards other principal diseases, there is no indication of any increase in comparison with the previous year.

(*ii*) It is reported by the District Magistrate that the District Board employed 3 epidemic doctors on active duties to cope with the outbreak, in addition to the expenditure of Rs.3,000 incurred by it during the year for free distribution of quinine.

(*iii*) Yes.

(*b*) Three medical licentiates have been deputed for anti-malaria work in the district and a special supply of quinine to the value of Rs.3,000 has been made to the district in addition to the normal grant of Rs.21,150 for free supply of quinine through the recognised agencies.

Arrangements have also been made to supply ten thousand plasmochin tablets to the District Board for malaria epidemic work.

(*c*) Copies of correspondence that has passed between Government and the Health Department of the District Board are laid on the Library table.

Mr. SASANKA SEKHAR SANYAL: Will the Hon'ble Minister be pleased to state, with reference to answer (*b*), viz., that three medical licentiates have been deputed for anti-malaria work in the district, when were these licentiates appointed and for what period?

The Hon'ble Nawab Khawaja HABIBULLAH Bahadur, of Dacca: Sir, I want notice.

Mr. SASANKA SEKHAR SANYAL: It appears from a copy of the correspondence laid on the Library table that on the 30th November, 1940, the Chairman of the District Board wrote to the Director of Public Health Bengal, that last year 131 medical men were appointed by the District Board to meet the situation but a similar situation arose this year, when the District Board was unable to cope with the situation for want of funds. After receiving that letter, what steps were taken by Government to meet the situation? For the information of the Hon'ble Minister I may read out the letter which has been placed on the Libary table. It runs thus: "In the year 1938, we appointed a few doctors at the beginning but the result was that we had to appoint 131 medical men for the whole of the district, and we apprehend that similar demands will follow from other quarters. Our Budget this year is a deficit one, and the Finance Committee has suggested drastic cuts to square up the Budget, and the Public Health Committee even does not seem to be inclined to sanction additional appointments of doctors in consideration of paucity of funds; whereas I am to see to the health of the district and also to save the lives of the people. As I am rather helpless, I approach you to come to our rescue by sending extra doctors with assistants and medicines or to sanction money for this——

Mr. SPEAKER: Order, order. I think you cannot read it out.

Mr. SASANKA SEKHAR SANYAL: I ask, after receiving this letter, what steps were taken by Government to meet the situation?

Mr. SPEAKER: You should first ask him whether he received the letter.

Mr. SASANKA SEKHAR SANYAL: He placed the letter on the Library table.

Mr. SPEAKER: Oh, I see.

The Hon'ble Nawab Khwaja HABIBULLAH Bahadur, of Dacca: Unfortunately the only copy of that letter I had I have placed on the Library table, and without that letter it is not possible for me to answer the question I would therefore ask for notice.

Mr. SASANKA SEKHAR SANYAL: In that case, Sir, in view of the importance of this question, would ask you to hold over the question for the present

Mr. SPEAKER: Yes, it may be held over, but at the same time you may also inform him of the supplementary questions you want to ask.

Mr. SASANKA SEKHAR SANYAL: Yes, Sir, I will do that.

(At this stage question No. *150 was called out.)

The Hon'ble Mr. MUKUNDA BEHARY MULLICK: In the absence of the Hon'ble Nawab Musharruff Hossain, Khan Bahadur, may I have your kind permission to answer this question on his behalf?

Mr. SPEAKER: The Hon'ble Minister ought to have given previous intimation to that effect; otherwise, it is very difficult to meet supplementary questions, if any. The question is therefore held over for the present.

Recording of jute lands in Kishoreganj and Netrakona subdivisions of Mymensingh.

***151. Mr. MONOMOHAN DAS:** (*a*) Is the Hon'ble Minister in charge of the Agriculture and Industries Department aware—

(*i*) that in the district of Mymensingh in the eastern part of Kishoreganj and Netrakona subdivisions and by the sides of the rivers Jumna and Brahmaputra, there are many jute-growing areas, known as *bhati* and *char* areas;

(*ii*) that the said areas remain under water from the early part of Jaistha B.S. till the last part of Kartik B.S.;

(*iii*) that the water rises up to ten and twelve cubits high above the land level;

(*iv*) that no other crops except jute can be grown there; and

(*v*) that the nature of the lands referred to in (*i*) has not been recorded in the form by the field workers?

(*b*) If the answer to (*a*) is in the affirmative, will the Hon'ble Minister be pleased to state what action, if any, he proposes to take in the matter?

MINISTER in charge of the AGRICULTURE and INDUSTRIES DEPARTMENT (the Hon'ble Mr. Tamizuddin Khan): (*a*) It is true that there are some *char* and *bhati* areas in Jamalpur and Netrakona; in fact, in most other districts of Bengal also. According to the rules, the duty to get such lands recorded under section 3 (*2*) lay on the jute-growers themselves.

The jute-growers were informed by notices in form No. 6 that if they possessed any such lands, they should file their applications within 15 days of the distribution of copies of the record relating to the mauza concerned; and, where such applications were filed, they were enquired into and action taken. In the Kishoreganj subdivision, for instance, 70·68 acres of lands were recorded under sub-section (*2*) of section 3.

(*b*) On representation being made that some of these applications were rejected on the ground of time-limit or were not properly enquired into, Government have reconsidered the situation and in order to give redress to such persons, as far as practicable, have recently issued instructions to the effect that, on an application being filed to the Union Jute Committee, these rejected applications shall be re-examined and previous orders revised, if necessary.

Mr. NIHARENDU DUTTA MAZUMDAR: With reference to answer (*a*) will the Hon'ble Minister be pleased to state as to whether he is not aware about the existence of *bhati* areas in the eastern part of Kishoreganj subdivision?

The Hon'ble Mr. TAMIZUDDIN KHAN: There are many such areas in Kishoreganj.

Mr. NIHARENDU DUTTA MAZUMDAR: May I point out to the Hon'ble Minister that in the answer he says—"It is true that there are some *char* and *bhati* areas in Jamalpur and Netrokona." The answer does not deal with Kishoreganj. Is that a mistake of the Hon'ble Minister? Or will the Hon'ble Minister be pleased to state the reason for this omission of Kishoreganj?

The Hon'ble Mr. TAMIZUDDIN KHAN: Possibly this is a clerical mistake

Mr. CHARU CHANDRA ROY: Will the Hon'ble Minister be pleased to state whether it is in the contemplation of the Government to undertake resurvey of those lands where nothing but jute can be grown during the season?

The Hon'ble Mr. TAMIZUDDIN KHAN: I think, Sir, no question of resurvey arises. The House probably remembers that an amendment to the Jute Regulation Act was duly passed. That Act has not yet been enforced. When that Act is enforced, people aggrieved will be entitled to file application for revision, and if such applications are filed, those cases in which revision is wanted will be investigated.

Mr. CHARU CHANDRA ROY: Are we to understand from what the Hon'ble Minister has said just now that after applications have been filed by the jute-growers Government will make a revision of the record of lands on which nothing but jute can be grown in this season?

Mr. SPEAKER: They will be brought under record as showing that nothing but jute can be grown thereon.

Mr. NIHARENDU DUTTA MAZUMDAR: Will the Hon'ble Minister be pleased to state whether Government is contemplating to take any steps to ascertain the extent of land in the *bhati* areas which have been affected by this regulation?

The Hon'ble Mr. TAMIZUDDIN KHAN: That will not be necessary. As I have already said, if any applications are made by the jute-growers of the *bhati* area to have their lands recorded under section 3 (*2*), then the records of those lands will be revised. If they feel that their applications were not properly enquired into, then this revision will be done, and in fact orders have already been issued to this effect; and over and above that, as I have already said, when the amending Act comes into force there will be another revision of the record of lands of the affected parties, but no resurvey of the *bhati* area is at all necessary.

Mr. NIHARENDU DUTTA MAZUMDAR: Apart from the question of applications being made by aggrieved parties, I am asking whether Government consider it desirable in view of its answer admitting that there are such *bhati* areas in the district of Mymensingh where nothing but jute can be grown, to ascertain the actual extent of land so affected?

Mr. SPEAKER: What fault has been committed by other districts that preference should be given to certain areas in a particular district?

Mr. NIHARENDU DUTTA MAZUMDAR: My question is: in view of this admission that there are lands which could grow nothing but jute, does Government contemplate the desirability of ascertaining the extent of land in the *bhati* areas which are of this description?

Mr. SPEAKER: I understand your point. But the difficulty is that once Government begins to do so, applications will come from every district, and the whole scheme will fail. All you are anxious to know is whether the record will show only those areas where nothing but jute can be grown. The Hon'ble Minister has given an assurance that apart from legislation he has issued instructions to this effect and the jute-growers will again get a chance.

Mr. NIHARENDU DUTTA MAZUMDAR: You mean, Sir, for revisions to be made on applications received. I want to know whether Government is contemplating ascertaining the actual extent of land apart from any question of applications to be made by them

Mr. SPEAKER: In Kishoreganj and Netrokona subdivisions?

Mr. NIHARENDU DUTTA MAZUMDAR: Yes, Sir, particularly in the *bhati* lands where the Hon'ble Minister has admitted that nothing but jute is grown.

The Hon'ble Mr. TAMIZUDDIN KHAN: Sir, Government consider that it is absolutely unnecessary.

Maulvi MUHAMMAD ISRAIL: Will the Hon'ble Minister be pleased to state whether the amended Act will be brought into force immediately after the sowing season or during the sowing season?

The Hon'ble Mr. TAMIZUDDIN KHAN: Immediately after the sowing season.

Number of teachers in Government high English schools in the district of Bakarganj.

***152. Srijut NARENDRA NATH DAS GUPTA:** (*a*) Will the Hon'ble Minister in charge of the Education Department be pleased to lay on the table a statement showing, with respect to the Bakarganj district,—

(*i*) the present number of teachers in Government high English schools;

(*ii*) the number of them that are (1) Hindus and (2) Muslims; and

(*iii*) the number of (1) Hindu and (2) Muslim Head Masters in these Government schools?

(*b*) Is it a fact that in some of the Government schools both the Head Masters and the Assistant Head Masters are Muslims?

MINISTER in charge of the EDUCATION DEPARTMENT (the Hon'ble Mr. A. K. Fazlul Huq): (*a*) (*i*) 67 (including 2 vacant posts).

(*ii*) (1) 36 and (2) 29 excluding 2 vacant posts.

(*iii*) (1) One and (2) Three.

(*b*) Yes. In the Perojpur Government High School. It is, however, contemplated to transfer the Muslim Assistant Head Master of the school to Bhola Government High School, where the Head Master is a Hindu and to appoint a Hindu in his place.

Recording of jute lands in certain thanas of Dinajpur district.

***153. Maulvi ABDUL JABBAR:** (*a*) Is the Hon'ble Minister in charge of the Agriculture and Industries Department aware—

(*i*) that the jute lands of many cultivators in Chirirbandar and Parbatipur thanas of the Dinajpur district have not been recorded; and

(ii) that there exists a feeling of discontent amongst the people of the said area?

(b) When do the Government contemplate bringing into force the Jute Regulation (Amendment) Act, 1940, in the said area?

The Hon'ble Mr. TAMIZUDDIN KHAN: (a) Government have issued detailed instructions that all cases of persons, whose lands have been totally omitted, should be enquired into by the Union Jute Committees and the staff; and omissions rectified, as far as possible.

(b) The enforcement of the Amendment Act all over the Province is under consideration of the Government; but, pending enforcement and formulation of the rules thereunder, the Government have already ordered that clerical mistakes of all classes, total omissions of complete sheets or mauzas, if any (but so far no such case has been discovered), and total omissions of the lands of individual jute-growers should be rectified on a provisional basis. These corrections will be ratified after the Amendment Act has been enforced.

Mr. NISHITHA NATH KUNDU: In view of his answer that all cases of omission would be enquired into by the Union Jute Committees or individual jute growers, will the Hon'ble Minister be pleased to state if they have been given any special instructions as to the procedure of initiating the enquiry—I mean whether the Union Jute Committee will of itself initiate the enquiry or the affected persons will have to come up before the Committee?

The Hon'ble Mr. TAMIZUDDIN KHAN: The affected persons will have to apply first of all.

Mr. NISHITHA NATH KUNDU: Has this fact that there will be an enquiry as to the omissions been amply circulated to the peasants and tenants so that they can know about this?

Mr. SPEAKER: Is it your constituency?

Mr. NISHITHA NATH KUNDU: Yes, Sir.

Mr. SPEAKER: If I had been the Minister, I would have asked the honourable member to circulate it himself. (Laughter.)

The Hon'ble Mr. TAMIZUDDIN KHAN: Sir, Government has circulated all these things very widely.

Mr. ATUL KRISHNA GHOSE: Will the Hon'ble Minister be pleased to consider the desirability of issuing detailed instructions that all cases of persons whose lands have been partially omitted should be enquired into by the Union Jute Committee and the staff and the omissions rectified as far as possible.

The Hon'ble Mr. TAMIZUDDIN KHAN: Not until the amended Act is in force.

UNSTARRED QUESTION

(answer to which was laid on the table)

Number of voters for the ensuing election of the Provincial Legislative Assembly.

55. Mr. ATUL CHANDRA KUMAR: Will the Hon'ble Minister in charge of the Home (Constitution and Elections) Department be pleased to state the total number of voters both male and female of the Bengal Legislative Assembly of each community for every constituency for the ensuing election of the Provincial Legislative Assembly?

The Hon'ble Sir BIJOY PRASAD SINGH ROY: The information is not yet completely available. I will communicate to the honourable member such figures as are compiled upon the receipt of all returns which have been called for.

Rai HARENDRA NATH CHAUDHURI: Will the Hon'ble Minister be pleased to state why the information is not yet completely available?

The Hon'ble Sir BIJOY PRASAD SINGH ROY: The figures are being collected by the registering authorities and are expected from them. We have asked for information, but it has not yet reached Writers' Buildings.

Rai HARENDRA NATH CHAUDHURI: Does the Hon'ble Minister except that it will reach him very soon?

The Hon'ble Sir BIJOY PRASAD SINGH ROY: Not very soon, because there was a large number of objections in case of certain areas. For instance a large number of objections were received in Calcutta and so the final publication could not be made till December, 1940. It will take a little time to collect all these figures.

Rai HARENDRA NATH CHAUDHURI: Will the Hon'ble Minister be pleased to give the figures of those constituencies in respect of which the final electoral rolls are complete?

The Hon'ble Sir BIJOY PRASAD SINGH ROY: An attempt will be made, Sir.

DEMAND FOR GRANT.

40—Agriculture.

The Hon'ble Mr. TAMIZUDDIN KHAN: Sir, on the recommendation of His Excellency the Governor, I beg to move that a sum of Rs. 43,85,000 be granted for expenditure under the head "40—Agriculture".

It will be seen, Sir, that out of the total provision of Rs. 43,85,000 for 1941-42 Rs. 27,31,000 is in connection with jute regulation under the following heads:—

	Rs.
(1) Jute purchase	55,000
(2) Jute Regulation	22,15,000
(3) Storage of jute records	17,000
(4) Substitute crops for jute	4,44,000

The balance of the provision amounting to Rs. 17,50,000 is for what may be called the normal activities of the Department and I will refer first to that part of the Budget.

In one sentence, the policy of the department is to increase the yield of crops now grown, to introduce new and more remunerative crops and improved methods and to assist the cultivators to dispose of their produce to the best advantage. For the information of honourable members I have had compiled and circulated a note on the activities of the department towards carrying out this policy. For the purpose of forming their opinions and of offering criticism I thought it would be useful to honourable members if they had in a concise form a description of the fields of activity of the department and some idea of what is being done. The note is not intended to suggest that enough has been achieved. Indeed in a province where some 28,000,000 acres are under cultivation and where some 45 millions of the population is dependent on the land one may very well doubt if enough could ever be achieved. The note therefore is simply intended for the infomation

of honourable members with a view to a fuller understanding of and co-operation in the work of the department, to give them some idea of what is being done and what has so far been achieved. As I have already said I do not claim that it is enough, but I do claim that we are working on the right lines and that the Department has made an honest attempt to do what it could with the resources at its disposal. I may be asked why we have not done more. I propose to explain briefly why it has not been possible to do more and I will indicate briefly with reference to the note and to the provisions of the budget what we are doing to expand the activities of the department.

I have referred to the limitations imposed by the resources at our disposal,—it would be more appropriate perhaps to say the lack of resources at our disposal. It is well known that from the very beginning the Department of Agriculture has suffered through lack of funds Until this Government took office the budget of the department was as little as 9 lakhs How little this was will be realised on comparison with 22 lakhs in Madras, 38¼ lakhs in the Punjab and 26½ lakhs in the United Provinces in the year 1938-39 This shortage of funds has resulted not only in insufficiency of staff in numbers but insufficiency of properly qualified staff

In the note which has been circulated to honourable members will be found some description of the research work of the department and a description of what is being done to carry the results of research to the cultivator. Once research work has advanced to a certain stage, the most important thing is carrying its results to the cultivators and it has been explained in the note that this is being done through the District Farms which are under the supervision of the District Agricultural Officers and through the thana farms and demonstration centres which are under the supervision of demonstrators. We are convinced that this system is basically sound and it is our policy to expand this system as fast as funds and trained staff permit. This policy has been endorsed by the Land Revenue Commission and I am glad to say that it has also been endorsed by the Provincial Board of Agriculture, Veterinary and Animal Husbandry to which I shall refer later.

The rate of expansion depends on the number of qualified staff available. For the production of qualified officers, as the House is aware, the Bengal Agricultural Institute has been established, and the Bhutnath Pal Agricultural School at Chinsurah was taken over last year as a Departmental Secondary School for the purpose of increasing the outturn of trained demonstrators. Copies of the prospectus of the Institute have already been sent to honourable members. I need only mention here that the first course will open at the Institute in April next and is designed to produce men who will be well qualified to serve Government either as District Agricultural Officers or as Live-stock

Officers. The course lasts for two years and twenty students can be admitted each year. From March, 1943, we shall therefore begin to obtain a steady output of well qualified District Agricultural Officers and Live-stock Officers. When the demand for these has been met, it is intended to open further courses at the Institute for training officers in other branches of work for which they may be required.

At the Agricultural School at Chinsurah the same two year course is given as at the Dacca Secondary Agricultural School for the purpose of producing young men qualified to be departmental demonstrators. Out of eleven students at the school when it was taken over by the department nine have passed the examination this year. At present there are 30 students in residence and it is possible to accommodate and train 36 at a time. Thus the maximum outturn of young men qualified to be demonstrators from this school can be 18 per annum. This will help us considerably but I am examining the possibilities of still further accelerating the outturn of trained demonstrators. I may add that it is our policy to encourage the sons of cultivators to take these courses and with this object 75 per cent. of the seats are reserved for the sons of *bona fide* cultivators or those who have a direct interest in the land. The minimum educational qualification is a pass certificate from Class VIII of a High English School.

For higher agricultural training three scholars had been selected, two for training at Cambridge University for the Diploma in Agriculture and one for training in dairying and poultry at the West of Scotland Agricultural College with a view to taking the National Diploma in dairying and the College Diploma in Poultry. Owing to the war it was not possible to send these scholars to the United Kingdom in 1939 or 1940. The possiblity of sending them to America for training in 1941-42 is now being examined. Provision for this purpose has been included in the Budget for 1941-42.

It will be seen therefore that we have been making every attempt to overcome the main obstacle to expansion and improvement of the work of the department, namely, the provision of a sufficient number of well qualified officers. The House will appreciate that the process must necessarily be gradual partly because of the large amount of work to be done first in getting the required institutions ready and then in the actual training of officers.

I have said that I claim that we are working on the right lines and that we are convinced that the system described in the note circulated to honourable members for conveying the results of research to the cultivators through the agency of district farms, thana farms and demonstration centres is basically sound. But I do not mean that we are resting content with these methods alone. I propose to keep constantly under review the measures for improving and expanding the

methods of the department. For this purpose I have reconstituted the old Board of Agriculture and the old Board of Animal Husbandry into a single and more representative Board called the Provincial Board of Agriculture, Veterinary and Animal Husbandry. This consists of the head technical experts of the Departments concerned including the Director of Rural Reconstruction and nine non-official members, of whom five are members of this House, two are members of the Upper House and two are gentlemen who devote special interest to agriculture. There are also occasional members consisting of the Chief Engineer, Irrigation Department, Registrar, Co-operative Societies, Secretary, Indian Central Jute Committee, and Director of Public Instruction who will be invited to attend meetings for discussions of subjects on which they are specially qualified to advise.

The Board will meet at least once every two months and its functions generally are to advise Government on all matters referred to it relating to the advancement of agriculture and animal husbandry. I believe that the Board will be of great assistance in the examination and development of new ideas for the improvement of agriculture and animal husbandry, and although under the terms of its constitution it will consider such matters as are referred to it by Government, I will welcome constructive suggestions from honourable members from time to time for discussion by the Board, though obviously it cannot be undertaken that every suggestion sent must necessarily be placed before the Board. The Board held its first meeting a few days ago and amongst the subjects discussed was a review of the present scheme of spreading improved crops through the agency of district farms, thana farms and demonstration centres. This policy has been endorsed by the Board and at the next meeting will be considered, what other measures, in addition to those already being taken by the Department can be adopted to convey to the cultivators more widely and more rapidly the results of research work.

The need for expansion of our research work also has not been lost sight of and I have taken steps with a view to taking fuller advantage of the facilities offered by the Imperial Council of Agricultural Research for assisting in schemes of research. As a result of the steps taken, the Provincial Agricultural Research Committee has this year examined and recommended twelve research schemes for the consideration of the Advisory Board of the Imperial Council.

Turning now to the items of new expenditure in the budget for 1941-42 the list may not appear impressive in volume but it contains provisions, all of which will be a definite advance in improving the conditions of the agriculturists of the province.

The provision for 91 thana farms is for continuing in new sites thana farms which have already been in existence for three years. In

addition, provision is made for the establishment of 10 new thana farms and 30 new demonstration centres with ten more demonstrators for their supervision. I have already explained that the rate of our development in this direction is governed for the present by the rate of outturn of trained staff.

As an example of conveying to the cultivator the results of research, provision has been made for the multiplication and distribution of improved departmental wheat. The total area under wheat in the province is about 160,300 acres. Of this only a few hundred acres are under the improved wheat of the department. With the limited facilities at present available in district farms the rate of multiplication of these strains is now too slow. The present scheme is for three years and provides for multiplication of wheat on the lands of cultivators. In the first year seed for 80 acres will be distributed free and grown by the cultivators. From this, 1,000 maunds of seeds are expected of which the department will buy 800 maunds for distribution and sowing a further 800 acres in the second year. This is expected to yield 10,000 maunds of seed of which the department will again buy 800 maunds for distribution and sowing a further 800 acres in the third year from which again another 10,000 maunds will be obtained. The seed which is not bought by the department will be at the disposal of the cultivators who may grow it.

As a measure of demonstration of improved implements provision has been made for the distribution of 400 improved ploughs to cultivators.

The provision for 20 additional stockmen is to further strengthen the staff of the Live-Stock Expert working the cattle improvement scheme in the districts.

A small but important item is for training an officer in the technique of bidi tobacco. The consumption of bidi tobacco in Bengal is estimated at 83,000 maunds per annum and its value is calculated to be Rs. 10 lakhs. Almost all of it is imported into Bengal. The department has proved that this tobacco grows well in certain parts of Bengal, but attempts to introduce its cultivation has met with poor response owing to lack of knowledge of the technique of curing it. It is, therefore, intended to send an officer to Bombay and Gujrat for training in all the operations of cultivating and curing the tobacco with the object of introducing this useful crop amongst the cultivators of Bengal.

For the development of marketing I have provided for the establishment of an additional egg grading station at Gouripore in Tippera district in view of the encouraging results obtained from the egg grading stations which have already been in operation. Gouripore is an important centre of the egg trade where 40,000 eggs are handled daily

in winter and 25,000 daily in summer. Under a grant received from the Imperial Council of Agricultural Research two mangoe grading stations, one orange grading station and one tobacco grading station have been worked as an experiment. This has proved successful and it has now been decided to continue these grading stations and provision has accordingly been made in the Budget.

Following the recommendations of the Royal Commission on Agriculture and the Indian Central Banking Enquiry Committee the need for the establishment of a Provincial Marketing Board has been recognised and provision for the establishment of a Board has accordingly been made. It is intended that the Board should consist of officials of the Departments concerned, representatives of the Legislatures, the Chambers of Commerce, the Railways and Inland Steamer Companies, and of the growers of agricultural produce. Its functions generally will be to establish and maintain closer co-ordination between the departments and various interests concerned and to advise Government on means for the improvement of the marketing of agricultural produce.

Provision has also been made for an enquiry into the various tolls and charges levied on cultivators and others in the markets of Bengal. The Bengal Markets Regulation Bill which I intend to introduce in the present session in place of the Agricultural Produce Markets Bill contemplates the prevention of the realisation of unjustified exactions in the markets and this enquiry will be necessary to give effect to the provisions of the Bill if it becomes law.

Before leaving the subject of the demand for the normal activities of the Department I would like to say a word about the need for more co-operation from the educated and more well-to-do classes of landowners. I think we are agreed on the need to do all that can be done to improve the lot of the cultivators. But I do feel that there is a tendency to think that all this should be done by Government. It is of course a responsibility of Government, but I believe that Government's efforts could be very largely augmented by co-operation from the educated landowning classes. In the spread of improved departmental seeds much could be done if such landowners would set aside a part of their land, even if it be only a few acres, for the multiplication of improved crops and for the maintenance of seed stores from which at a fair price they could supply their tenants with improved departmental seeds. In the Report of the Department for 1939-40 mention is made of 99 private farms which have done much good in this manner. Departmental seeds were multiplied and stored and after reserving some for further multiplication the surplus was made available to neighbouring cultivators.

The need for manuring is recognised. The department has been successful in producing a manure from organic refuse. In this direction also much could be done by the more prosperous landowners by arranging for the demonstration of these methods to their tenants and by encouraging them to adopt them. Similarly such landowners at very little cost could help by example to introduce improved ploughs and other implements. Co-operation in these ways will be welcomed by the officers of the department and they will certainly give all the advice and assistance they can. I commend to the attention of honourable members who are interested in this subject the description of the work done in private farms in the Northern Circle in Volume II of the Report of the Department for 1939-40.

I now turn to the large portion of the demand under this grant for expenditure in connection with jute. The principal items are as follows:—

(1) For the examination of jute lands and the checking of licenses for the 1941 crop—Rs. 9,15,000.

(2) For the issue of licenses for the 1942 crop—Rs. 13,00,000.

(3) For the supply of seeds of alternative crops during 1941-42—Rs. 4,44,000.

It will be observed that all these items relate to the regulation of the jute crop. The policy of Government with regard to jute is to make every effort humanly possible to give the grower the best possible price for the commodity. As has been so often said on the floor of the House and elsewhere the first and most fundamental step towards this end is the adjustment of supply to demand. Previous attempts to do this by voluntary restriction having proved ineffective Government have ultimately decided to regulate the production of jute on a compulsory basis. This has necessitated a comprehensive survey of the entire jute area of the Province and the work of issuing licenses to more than 55 lakhs of jute-growers is now proceeding apace. This is an experiment which in its boldness and magnitude far surpasses any other similar attempt anywhere else in the world. If this experiment succeeds, as I have no doubt it will, three-fourths of our battle for the jute-grower will have been won. This is central pivot round which all our other activities to ameliorate the condition of the jute grower must revolve. Those who advocate the policy of abandonment of this sheet anchor are out to shipwreck the poor cultivator. These are the people who in spite of their lip-sympathy with the jute-grower would keep him the eternal victim of fortuitous circumstances, to be dictated upon and exploited as he has always been in the past. The poor but shrewd jute-grower will not fail to find out these false friends.

So far as the coming season is concerned no one can predict with any degree of certainty what will happen, no one can even forecast for the morrow. The limited market and the curtailed shipping now available may be further curtailed, and in spite of the drastic regulation that is going to be enforced prices may not be satisfactory in the coming season. But one thing is certain that without this regulation what remains of the 1940 crop and practically the whole of the 1941 crop would be unsaleable. Nothing but the strict enforcement of the regulation of this year's crop can prevent such a catastrophe.

What other steps will have to be taken in implementing the jute policy of Government will depend on circumstances as they develop. It will be futile to make an attempt to forecast these steps in advance in these extraordinary times. But I can assure the House that nothing that can be done will be left undone. In pursuance of our policy we aim ultimately at the setting up of an organization of the jute-growers of the Province on a co-operative basis with adequate provision for warehousing facilities, so that they may be placed in a position to control the marketing of the entire produce of the Province. An ambitious project like this will necessarily take a considerable time to materialise, particularly in a country where the vast majority of the growers are ignorant and illiterate. Any impatience on our part will only jeopardise the cause we hold so dear.

Before I conclude I would like to say a very few words about the item relating to the provision of seeds for substitute crops. The sum of Rs. 4,41,000 for which I am asking under this item represents the money required for securing seeds—principally paddy seeds—to be made available at a reasonable price to cultivators in those areas where an adequate supply is not available through the ordinary channels.

It will be clear that Government cannot undertake to supply seeds to every one who wants them all over the province. That would be a task beyond the resources of any Government but we are doing all that is feasible through the department to see that in areas where there is a shortage of suitable seeds, supplies from outside will be made available to make up the deficit as far as is possible.

Maulvi ABU HOSSAIN SARKAR: Sir, I beg to move that the demand of Rs. 43,85,000 for expenditure under the head "40—Agriculture" be reduced by Rs. 100.

Sir, it must be recalled that after the last Great War the price of jute rose very high but subsequently it fell very low; but the jute mill owners made enormous profit. So the country people began to clamour and the previous Government set up a Committee of which Mr. Speaker, you happened to be a member. That Committee reported among other things that the cultivation of jute could be controlled and fortunately,

Mr. Speaker, in the minority report the members made out a clear case for fixing the minimum price of jute. Unfortunately the previous Government did not accept that wise counsel but they only took to voluntary restriction of the cultivation of jute. This Government came to power in 1937 and they also began to follow the same policy, viz., the voluntary restriction of the cultivation of jute. Now, in 1937, that is, in the very beginning of the working of this present Government, on behalf of our Krishak Proja Party I submitted a comprehensive Jute Bill which recommended among other things restriction of cultivation, fixing of minimum price of jute, opening of regulated market and warehouse, uniformity of weight and many other things and that Bill came up for discussion in 1938. Besides, Mr. Speaker, several cut motions were moved in this Assembly for compelling the Government to take up a definite policy, specially for fixing the minimum price of jute. However, though the Hon'ble Mr. Fazlul Huq as the leader of the Krishak Proja Party before the election made it his election programme and the party programme also that he will try to fix the minimum price of jute if the party comes into power, that gentleman subsequently resiled from his position and made a remarkable statement that as lawyer's fee cannot be fixed, so the price of jute also could not be fixed. And we thought that the Government will go on with their voluntary restriction schemes but they did not follow that totally. The first attempt that they made in their own way was to restrict the hour of work of the jute mills. I think that ordinance was not followed by the persons concerned. Subsequently Government published another ordinance fixing the minimum price of loose jute and hessians in the futures market. That also was overthrown. Again, another ordinance was passed by the Government fixing the minimum and maximum prices of futures market of baled jute as well as hessians. That also was thrown to the winds.

Now, Sir, it may be remembered that when the Government tried to fix the price of jute in the futures market, the price rose up and fortunately or unfortunately the jute mill owners could not tolerate that. They began to put pressure. Therefore, the very Government which passed successive ordinances did not enforce those ordinances but came to terms with jute mill owners and entered into a gentleman's agreement, which also I am sorry to say was not observed by the party concerned. Now, Sir, being unable to control the formidable mill interest the Hon'ble Ministers tried to punish the cultivators for their clamour. In 1939 abruptly they passed a Bill, called the Jute Regulation Bill and began to survey the lands haphazardly. What is more astonishing is that the volunteers who helped the Ministers in their election campaign were recruited as officers and recorders and the result was disastrous as some of those gentlemen did not know how to consult maps and settlement records, and they could not relay maps.

The lands were not recorded correctly and most of the cultivators were disappointed and then began to clamour. In this Assembly most of the learned honourable gentlemen who have anything to do with jute and who are supposed to know about jute spoke against the measure and Government were compelled to withdraw it. Again, in 1940 they began the same experiment and the same process was applied in appointing officers and the latter also haphazardly recorded the lands, and you will be astonished to know, Mr. Speaker, that mosques, *debalayas*, public roads, school buildings, *patshala* houses and even forests and *bils*, which were never cultivated, were recorded as jute lands and there was absolute turmoil and hubbub in the mufassal. The Hon'ble Finance Minister went to Gaibandha only the other day and had he not been surrounded by Maulanas and Maulvis he would have seen what kind of reception he got in the mufassal areas. However, the main difficulty of this scheme was this that these temporary officers were appointed for 6 or 7 months and when the notices for correction of records were published and thousands of applications were filed before them, their term of service expired and those unfortunate gentlemen instead of looking into the applications burnt them down. Hence no record was corrected and the result was very much disastrous for which we on behalf of our party were compelled to declare a Jute Day, as the Government turned a deaf ear to our prayers and to our lectures. Being compelled under these circumstances the Government ultimately published some notifications giving hope that they will try to correct records and still I am sorry to say they did not take any effective steps as yet. Besides that, the astounding thing is this that when the Jute Day was declared this Government issued notices to the Collectors and some officers concerned that in some districts not only the question about jute but anything relating to any Bill that was passed into law could not be discussed as if the Bills passed by this Government came as the holy order of God, holy orders that are contained in the Holy Quoran or the Holy Bible or the Holy *Gita* or the *Vedas*. No civilized Government, I am sure, Mr. Speaker, could be so arbitrary. The British Government is taking exception to the methods used by Herr Hitler in his dictatorial Government, but I think our Ministers have become little Hitlers here in Bengal because they do not permit any discussion of their Bills and of their orders and their ordinances.

Mr. SPEAKER: Is that a matter of jute policy?

Maulvi ABU HOSSAIN SARKAR: I submit, Mr. Speaker, that it comes with reference to jute policy because they say that the Regulations and Acts passed by them could not be discussed and this order was passed in connection with our Jute Day declared to discuss particularly about Government's policy.

Now, Sir, this Jute Regulation Act of 1940 was passed; jute lands were recorded; but the price of jute was not altered. Therefore the Hon'ble Finance Minister and some other Ministers of this Government went to Delhi to have a discussion with the Government of India. A resolution was passed in this House encouraging the Government to have something concrete and the Finance Minister said that he would get something substantial though we feared that he would get "*Delhika Laddoo*". Unfortunately he got that thing. He got an agreement and Mr. Bagaria, one of the important authorities of Calcutta about jute market, did publish a statement very recently that the European jute mill owners were not observing that agreement also. Therefore, I submit, Sir, the Government are following no policy relating to jute and by their bungling, by their mismanagement, by their want of knowledge they are practically ruining the tenantry and the cultivators of this country.

What are they doing by their work? Directly and indirectly they are only benefiting the foreign interests who deal in jute—the jute-mill owners, jute balers and jute exporters. They are showing their indifference to the misfortune of the tenants. This kind of callousness, this kind of indifference cannot be expected from Ministers who are supposed to come here and take their *gadi* by the votes of persons who are mostly cultivators of jute in Bengal. Now, Sir, what can be done? What should be the proposal then? The Government are only trying to restrict the cultivation of jute. What else have they done? This very Government appointed a Committee to enquire into the condition of cultivation of jute and the price of jute. That Committee recommended among other things the fixation of a minimum price. Government are not accepting that recommendation. Practically the whole money, time and labour of these honourable members are going in vain. What the Government should do, I submit, is that they should take very seriously the report of the Jute Committee and try to fix the minimum price of jute. Don't play shilly-shallying. Don't try to please your masters, the European merchants who are making enormous profit out of jute and jute manufactures. Government last year also took to purchasing of jute and several lakhs of rupees were spent and the jute has been stocked. The net result is that they are spending Rs. 55,000 a year in the shape of godown rent and other things for keeping it in safe custody. They are not selling it. If Rs. 50,000 is drained annually from the public treasury, it will be very unfortunate, and some of my friends also questioned whether the jute purchased by Government exist in the market or in any godown at all. You know, Mr. Speaker, that during this war time, England and other countries are making strenuous efforts to sell their surplus production. As for example, Lord Willingdon went to Brazil to find out new markets for the surplus production of England. What have this Government done?

They have not approached the Government of India or any other authority to find out new markets for our surplus jute. It is a fact, and nobody can deny, that some of the belligerent countries in Europe who are dealing with Brazil and other South American countries have expanded their trade and industry very much. It is reported that Brazil is transporting their excess wheat to Europe in paper bags because it has not been possible for them to get jute bags from India. Did this Government approach the Government of India for exporting jute manufactures to other countries? Did this Government ever try to explore any other method of finding out any new use for jute which they say is their surplus in the market? All the Governments are trying to find out new avenues, to find out new uses, for their surplus agricultural production. But this Government is sitting idle just like widows and trying to restrict production——

Mr. SPEAKER: It is a poor compliment to the widows.

Maulvi ABU HOSSAIN SARKAR: I wanted to use a stronger word, but I did not find it. Just like helpless widows they are trying to control production.

Mr. SPEAKER: You are trying to take shelter behind widows.

Maulvi ABU HOSSAIN SARKAR: The cultivators are voiceless. They are disorganised. Therefore it is easy to control them in order to have a false satisfaction in the mind of the Ministers. They cannot touch the powerful organisation—the Indian Jute Mills Association. They wanted to tackle the jute mill owners and they got a good snubbing. Therefore they have now come down to oppress the poor tenants only because they clamour for a fair price for their jute. Finally, Sir,——

Mr. SPEAKER: Your time is up.

Maulvi ABU HOSSAIN SARKAR: Let me finish the sentence, Sir. They are not following a wise policy. The policy that they are following will ultimately ruin the cultivators and the country and nobody else.

(The member having reached the time limit resumed his seat.)

Mr. M. SHAMSUDDIN AHMED: Mr. Speaker, Sir, Mr. Abu Hossain Sarkar has spoken about the jute policy. The other day I dealt with the jute policy partially but to-day I want to place before

you materials which will prove how the Government themselves think they have bungled. I mentioned the other day that under the auspices of the Faridpur District Krishak Proja Samity a conference was organised a few days ago over which I had the honour of presiding. There the Chief Controller of Jute happened to be present. He wanted to address the meeting to explain the situation and after he had spoken for about 5 or 10 minutes, he was not given any hearing. As I said the other day, that officer came back to Calcutta, and a conference was held in the Secretariat over which the Hon'ble Finance Minister, and not the Agricultural Minister, Mr. Tamizuddin Khan, presided. The Hon'ble Mr. Tamizuddin Khan was in his own home district possibly canvassing support for his policy. To the conference that was held in the Secretariat, editors of newspapers were invited and something was done—we do not know what it was. I shall with your permission read out an extract from a circular which is said to have been issued by one of the biggest officers in regard to jute. The circular is addressed to all Chairmen and members of the Union Jute Committees. This is the portion to which I want to draw the attention of the House:—

"I therefore request you Gentlemen to consider these facts coolly and squarely. Are you going to let the *political opportunists* to exploit the situation and successfully preach anti-jute regulation or are you going to stand up solidly against such mischievous propaganda and support this most useful and indispensably necessary measure?"

This is what that officer has written to all Chairmen and members of the Union Jute Committees. I do not know whether that officer guided the Ministry or the Ministry guided that officer.

Now I want to read from another circular dated the 14th February, 1941. Possibly this has been issued on behalf of the Ministry. It contains the following:—

"Our opponents have, however, been trying to exploit this inherent unpopularity—mark the words—by fanning and exaggerating the defects which in a gigantic operation of this magnitude could not have been avoided under any circumstances. I am, therefore, appealing to you to take stock of the situation carefully and to do your best to fight down the agitation."

Referring to defects, omissions and mistakes, it says—

"But fully admitting defects, I am quite sure that the record is really not so bad as the critics would make us believe."

I will not weary the House by reading all the steps which are proposed to be taken. The circular accepts the defects that we have mentioned about wrong entries and everything. It says further:—

"There are a few other defects. It is said that lands of certain people have been totally omitted; that in the case of others while some of their lands have been recorded, others have been omitted; that the owners of the lands have ejected the *bargadars* and have withdrawn all jute plots to *khas* possession; that certain people hold jute lands in mortgage and that due to the application of the Debt Settlement Boards these lands have reverted back to the mortgagers leaving the mortgagee with no jute land whatever; that there should be a minimum area of half a bigha or so, beyond which jute regulation should not go, etc., etc. However foreceful and desirable some of these improvements may be, I am afraid and regret they cannot be taken up this year and at this stage. I have no doubt whatsoever that we fully agree that the compulsory regulation of the crop is the only alternative. May I appeal to you, therefore, that you will do your best to explain these facts to the growers and to actively propagate the utility, the urgency and the indispensability of the action I and my colleagues have taken. Our responsibility is joint and we shall stand or fall together."

Sir, we have lately heard much of chicanery, perjury, forgery and so on on our part when we go out to address public meetings but as a matter of fact when we want to tell the people that the policy of Government is wrong, we are told that we cannot hold meetings and that we cannot talk of the jute policy of Government, because it comes within the purview of the Defence of India Act. Sir, I submit that it is a most shameless thing that the world has ever known, and I cannot even conceive of such an attitude being adopted by any Government—not to speak of a constitutional Government as our Ministers boast that we have got. This is enough to show who are the people who have been practising chicanery, perjury or forgery.

Sir, I will only make some observation with regard to the statement which my friend, the Minister of Agriculture, has just now made. I do not know whether he is in full possession of all the facts, but I am asking him some questions to which I hope he will give a suitable reply. May I know, Sir, the total area that will be set free from jute cultivation? I understand that it will be about eighty lakhs of bighas of land that will be released from jute cultivation. What scheme has be prepared for growing substitute crops on the lands to be thus set free? Does he know that there are also lands where only jute and

nothing but jute can be grown, and that there are lands which go under water even before the rainy season sets in? What will be the minimum quota of land on which jute will be grown? Is it three bighas, two bighas, one bigha, ten cottahs, or five cottahs on which a cultivator will be allowed to grow jute?

Now, Sir, my friend, the Hon'ble Minister has talked about seeds and has suggested several alternative crops, namely, Napier grass, maize, *jowar*, etc. Does he not know that Napier grass, maize, or *jowar* can only be grown on high lands? It is absurd, it is sheer stupidity to suggest to the cultivator to grow Napier grass, maize or *jowar* on his lands which have been released from the cultivation of jute. No doubt, Napier grass can be grown on some lands, but it is a commodity which is meant for animals and not for man. The cultivator in Bengal, Sir, is as much in need of a money crop like jute as he is of a staple food crop. It is sheer stupidity to suggest Napier grass as a substitute for such an important money crop as jute.

The other day, Sir, Mr. Suhrawrady who thinks he is the custodian of Islamic solidarity and Muslim interests and talks of Islamic solidarity and Muslim interests in season and out of season, attacked us, myself and my party, as the enemy of Islam and of the country. May I ask him,—he is not present here this afternoon—may I ask him who is the enemy of the people? Is it we or those people who issued ordinances and after issuing them took advantage of the *fatka* market? It is such people as they who are the enemy of the country.

Now, Sir, to come back to the question of jute regulation, does the Hon'ble Minister for Agriculture know how many bighas of land has been set free from jute cultivation, and what does he propose to do with that land? The cultivators are illiterate, and it takes years of propaganda not only by the issue of leaflets but also by the beat of drums and sending out preachers to make them understand what is good for them. You have done nothing of the sort. Therefore, when you sent out your men to prepare a record of jute lands, after having enacted so many taxation measures which have fallen as a heavy burden on the poor people, the cultivators thought that if they recorded their lands properly, possibly they would be taxed more and more. Only the other day you got the Sales Tax Bill passed by this House. What does it show? It only creates apprehension in the minds of the people that in every activity of Government there is a motive behind of taxing the people more and more. Can the Hon'ble Minister categorically deny when I say that no propaganda of any kind whatsoever has been made except hanging up certain leaflets on the doors of Union Board offices or on the walls of Union Board Presidents' houses? Let my honourable friend tell his own tale about a meeting that he faced; the Chief Controller of Jute was present in that meeting. Therefore, how

can he or his colleagues say that we were carrying on mischievous propaganda? It is they, Sir, who are mischievous people; it is they who are heading towards a crisis and in their nervousness abusing us as mischievous people. Only to save their faces, they have come forward with a Bill for the regulation of jute cultivation. Is there any guarantee, Sir, that as a result of this regulation policy of Government the grower will get Rs. 10 per maund for his jute? I say, Sir, without any hesitation or doubt that there can be no such guarantee in this regulation policy adopted by Government. Unless therefore a minimum price is fixed, you cannot control the market; and here you are absolutely in the hands of your white masters. While you are adopting a regulation policy, others are taking advantage of it. Assam has taken advantage of your regulation policy and is growing more jute. Jute is also grown in Bihar and Orissa and also in the United Provinces, and you have no power to regulate jute cultivation in those provinces. You are not able to control the jute market; you do not care to see whether the agreement entered into with the Jute Mills Association is being honoured or not; you are incapable and impotent to do that; you are afraid, because you feel that if you take up the problem in right earnest, your white masters will be displeased and will not vote with you and your Ministry will go out.

Sir, it pains me much to utter these unpleasant truths, but I have to do so because I feel that the Government have miserably failed to tackle the problem. I do not by any means underestimate the importance of this problem. It is a grave and difficult problem, and if you want to tackle it properly, you must proceed cautiously. I ask Government on what data, on what formulas, and on what bases did they come to a decision of one-third restriction? Last year, 1,25,00,000 bales of jute was produced. What is the amount of surplus jute they have got in hand? What is the total quantity of manufactured jute? This is a question that can be properly answered by my friend, Mr. Walker. All these things have got to be taken into consideration in coming to a proper decision. Without knowing the total demand for jute can you regulate its cultivation? But without knowing as to what will be done with the jute you are going to produce and without knowing what price you will be able to give to the cultivator, you rushed in for legislation. And now what are you going to do? You are issuing leaflets; you are trying to carry on propaganda and agitation. I will invite the Ministry to carry on propaganda and agitation and also to allow us to hold public meetings. Let us both go out to the country and let us both appeal to the public. I am not throwing out a challenge to Government. They must go out to the country and tell the people that they have done good to the people, and by this procedure they will benefit the cultivators. We are trying to do the same thing. We are telling the people that this policy of Government will not do them any good unless a minimum price is fixed and the market is controlled.

Therefore, when we take all these facts into consideration, I am confident that the abuses which Mr. Suhrawardy under the shelter of the present system of communal electorate has been hurling at us in season and out of season, thinking that if we who are representing the krishak-projas can be shown up as enemies of the country and enemies of Islam, we will lose our day, will go back as a boomerang on Mr. Suhrawardy.

Now, Sir, I am telling them, well, whatever we are, we are. Let them also come out into the country and let them tell the people that this is for their good. We also will tell the people. So, they should not restrict our liberty to hold meetings; we should be given full permission to hold meetings and discuss, as is done in all constitutional Governments. You know, Sir, very well even in England, of which you quote so much, all Bills and even Acts which have already been passed may be discussed. You can tell the people that such and such Act ought to be amended. That is the only procedure which a constitutional Government can take recourse to. Therefore, Sir, let this Ministry according to their circular carry on with their agitation and we are also prepared to carry on with our agitation. Let them give us full opportunity to carry on agitation and tell the people whatever good the Ministry are doing and whatever wrong they are doing.

With these words I support the motion moved by Mr. Abu Hossain Sarkar.

Mr. ATUL CHANDRA SEN: Mr. Speaker, Sir, I thank you for allowing me to make a few observations at this stage on Arial Bil water-hyacinth control scheme in which I propose to illustrate how the executive so bungle and mismanage a big agricultural project and the Government shirk their responsibility in the matter.

Sir, the matter is of utmost importance as it directly concerns some 50,000 individual cultivators and 250,000 persons of the three thanas of Srinagar, Dohar and Nawabganj in Dacca district, according to Government figures, and, as I shall show, indirectly the entire agricultural population of East and North Bengal for whom water-hyacinth is a major issue connected with their bread problem.

Sir, Arial Bil is a natural depression extending over some 125 square miles covering the three thanas mentioned above and parts of the two subdivisions of Munshiganj and Sadar South. Prior to the coming of the water-hyacinth pest about the year 1912, the entire area used to be cultivated and paddy grown. Naturally, the people of the area were prosperous. But since the coming of the pest cultivation was perforce abandoned and the following evil consequences ensued: (*i*) diminution in the land values, (*ii*) increased rural indebtedness, (*iii*) whole-sale transfer of land from the cultivator to

the *mahajan*, (*iv*) transformation of cultivators into landless labourers, (*v*) surrender of "*jote*" rights to the zemindar to avoid payment of rent for unproductive land, and (*vi*) large migrations of population—as if a blight had suddenly descended on a once prosperous area and transformed it into a desert overnight. This state of affairs continued unbroken except by a few isolated and futile attempts to check the onrush of the pest by erecting bamboo fences or barriers on a very limited scale until the year 1934. That year, Sir, the unlettered cultivators of Sridharpur in Baraikhali Union in Srinagar raised some money by subscription from amongst themselves and borrowed some more from some well-to-do middle class gentlemen farmers at their own initiative, procured some *gajari* posts from the *garhs* on the border of Mymensingh district, and when the bed of the *bil* was dry in the beginning of 1935, set them up along a two-mile line. When the bed of the *bil* was later inundated about the middle of April and the south-easter began to blow the water-hyacinth pest towards the cultivated area behind the pests, they fixed bamboo booms or floats along the posts set up earlier. In this way they protected their crop in 1935 more or less satisfactorily. It should be noted that in a vast *bil* like Arial Bil it blows a gale normally during the monsoon months and requires very strong barricades to stand the tremendous pressure exerted by the vast masses of the pest. From the engineering point of view, therefore, it may be safely asserted that the popular effort of 1934-35 succeeded as the posts set up that year withstood rough weather and pressure of the pest until removed from their places in 1938. In the first years about 1,000 acres of crop were protected. About the end of 1936, the Special Officer of Government arrived on the scene and voluntarily took upon himself the management of affairs. The people took it that the Government had at long last come to their assistance and he was welcomed accordingly. He assured the people that he would (*i*) extend the barricades gradually to cover the entire *bil*, (*ii*) always consult their wishes, and (*iii*) lastly, that apportionment of costs would be made with their consent after they, the cultivators, had scrutinised and approved the accounts. The work for 1937 was carried on in strict accordance with these stipulations. The barricade was extended to cover the whole of Baraikhali Union and part of Hashara Union, the work of construction and maintenance was entrusted to an individual who had in 1936 erected a barricade of his own in a different but adjacent part of the *bil* as a private business enterprise, and immediately after harvest of 1937 the accounts were placed before a meeting of the cultivators at Baraikhali for approval and passing. The cultivators took part in the scrutiny of accounts, and, please note this point, had certain items cancelled from the bill presented by the Special Officer on behalf of the contractor. One interesting item of expenditure was the boat-hire by the Hon'ble

Nawab Bahadur of Dacca who as Minister in charge of Agriculture then inspected the *bil*. It is not possible to say what exactly the work cost that year as the accounts were not supported by proper vouchers. However, as after deducting a lump sum donation of Rs. 500 received through the Divisional Commissioner of Dacca and though due to defects in the work, the first time under the supervision of an official, the crop of only half the area sought to be protected was actually saved and it would have been unfair to require the cultivators of 50 per cent. land to pay for the barricade constructed with the object of protecting 100 per cent. land, the rate came to 2 annas 3 pies per *bigha* or 6 annas 6 pies per acre, the cultivators voluntarily paid this sum without demur, although they drew the Special Officer's attention to the doubtful nature of the accounts at the time.

Sir, it cost the cultivators about 3 annas per *bigha* of crop land to construct the barricade in 1934-35, 1 anna 3 pies in 1936 and 2 annas 3 pies in 1937. In 1937 the Special Officer assured the cultivators that with an increase in the superficial area protected in proportion to the linear area, the rate per *bigha* would be even less as the cost depended on the length of the barricade and not on the total area protected. Up to this, on the whole, things were satisfactory, but suddenly the beginning of 1938 saw a change in the policy. What, according to the *Statesman* of the 2nd January, 1938, was an excellent example of self-organisation and self-taxation was suddenly taken away from the hands of the people. The people were no longer taken into confidence by the Special Officer. The posts were removed very much further south against the express wishes of the originators of the scheme, in spite of the fact that the proper time for such removal had long passed and the bed of the *bil* had already been inundated. The consequence was that the barricade constructed in 1938 became weak and was breached at several points. Ever since misfortune had dogged the scheme. It appears from the telegraphic work order of the Collector of Dacca, dated the 11th March, 1939, and the minutes of the Collector's so-called Central Committee meeting, dated Bhagyakul, the 13th May, 1939, that (*i*) the Collector had in the meanwhile taken over control of affairs into his own hands, (*ii*) in important matters his nominated committee consisting of himself, five other subordinate officers of his, one semi-official and three other nominated non-officials who either rarely or never attended meetings were ignored, viz., appointment of contractor S. K. Ganguly; tender notice issued, 16th May, 1939, and appointment made, 23rd May, 1939, but the matter was not even discussed at the meeting, and (*iii*) that secrecy began to be observed in all matters connected with the administration of the *bil* affairs, meetings being held in camera. The result of all this is summarised below:—(*i*) The Collector and the officers associated with him in the administration of Arial Bil affairs have

failed even to construct the barricade properly according to the methods evolved by the people and approved by the Irrigation Officer of Dacca so far. In this connection I would refer to the Hon'ble Mr. Tamizuddin Khan's admission on the 13th September, 1940, that the barricade was not completed even then. (*ii*) The work which if done properly once would have continued to serve for at least 8 to 10 years, has had to be done three times already and, if I mistake not, will have to be done over again this year. (*iii*) That which cost the people less than Re. 1 in 1934-35 has cost Rs. 5 or more since control passed into the Collector's hands. (*iv*) The wishes of the people have been ignored and they are not taken into confidence in regard to expenses and other relevant matters. (*v*) When the people telegraphed the Collector for succour, well within his power to give under section 7 (*4*) of the Bengal Water-Hyacinth Act, 1936, at a time when prompt action was called for, he did not even care to acknowledge receipt of that telegram, not to speak of taking action I personally know of this telegram. It came from some representatives of the cultivators who desired to wait in deputation on the Collector and place before him their grievances for which the Collector himself was responsible. But the Collector was unrelenting. (*vi*) Lastly, members of this House have been systematically deceived by inaccurate answers to questions asked.

Sir, the charges I have put forward against the Collector and his subordinates are grave indeed. I would ask the Government to institute a judicial enquiry into the matter. I wish I had the time to refer in detail to the materials on which these charges are based. I therefore rest content by referring the House to some published literature, namely—(*i*) *Banngiya Kachuri Samsodhan Ain-O-Arial Bil* (in Bengali), edited by the Secretary of the Congress Arial Bil Committee, (*ii*) the presidential address delivered by Dr. Suresh Chandra Banerji, M.L.A., at the Arial Bil Conference held at Malikanda, Dacca, on the 14th January, 1941, and lastly, (*iii*) the resolutions passed at that Conference.

In fact, Sir, since 1938, the affairs of the scheme have been so mismanaged that on the one hand the good-will of the people intended to benefit has all but alienated, they have suffered tremendously not only mentally but materially as well, and as a result of wastefulness, the future of the scheme is about to be ruined. In place of 6 annas 6 pies per acre they have been assessed at Rs. 3-4 per acre for the year 1940! And they do not know the basis of these assessments, notwithstanding the answer made by the Hon'ble Minister to starred question No. 106 (*b*) on March 3rd last. So, it may be, if the assessment rate is not reduced, the scheme which has been praised by the Irrigation Department of Government as "the cheapest and most effective method

of crop protection" will have to be given up not only in Arial Bil but elsewhere in Bengal also, as a barricade at such a price will be too dear.

For the last couple of years, Sir, the people concerned have been trying to draw the attention of the Ministry to the gross mismanagement of the Collector in various ways, but to no purpose. We are always told that the Government have nothing to do with it.

Is it intended, Sir, to shirk responsibility for the actions or inactions of officers of Government on the part of the Ministry? If this is so, where are the unfortunate people to turn to for relief or redress? What about the Press Notes issued by Government on the subject in 1937 and 1938 and what about the answers made in this House? Who are to be held responsible for the inaccuracies contained in them?

Sir, the Collector's latest statement in regard to the work required for the protection of crop in the current year states—"Very little will be necessary except the provision of booms and the arrangement for watch and ward." The Tender Notice for the current year's work issued on January 15, 1941 (it should have been issued in July, 1940) is also based on this misconception. Last year the work was done untimely under conditions unfavourable for the construction of a proper barricade. Obviously, therefore, unless the entire 25 miles of barricade constructed last year is reconditioned, the crop of 150,000 *bighas* of land will always be in danger of being destroyed during the forthcoming monsoons. There are other omissions and grave defects in the said Tender Notice, so much so, that I am convinced that in spite of his long connection of four years with the *bil* the Collector has not even a correct appreciation of what is required. It seems that the unfortunate cultivators must live in constant fear of losing their crop all through the coming monsoons as in the past. The Ministry have not only shut their eyes to all this, but they even intend to arm the Collector with arbitrary powers in the proposed Bengal Water-Hyacinth Amendment Bill, 1940. The cultivators must lose their crop, and, after the Bill is passed, live in fear of their goods, crops and lands being seized by the self-same Collector as punishment for his own errors and mistakes.

It is from a sense of duty, Sir, that I have taken upon myself the task of drawing the attention of the House to the lot of the unfortunate cultivators of Arial Bil who do not know what to do. Surely, Sir, it is also the duty of the Government to save the people from the consequences of incompetence of their officers who, it seems, do not much care what happens to the people entrusted to their care. If they

allow their officers to play with the fate of 2,50,000 persons for any more length of time, they will stand condemned before the people.

(At this stage, the House was adjourned for 15 minutes.)

(After adjournment.)

Kazi EMDADUL HAQUE: Sir, I rise to give my wholehearted support to the motion of my friend, Mr. Abu Hossain Sarkar, who has very lucidly and beautifully made out a case for the jute-growers. But like Mr. Abu Hossain Sarkar and Mr. Shamsuddin Ahmed, the leader of the Krishak Proja Party, I do not like to lay the blame on the Hon'ble Minister for agriculture. Knowing him as I do as a *proja*-minded man, I cannot think for a moment that he has become so soon metamorphosed. He was a *proja*-minded man all along, and it was only due to the influence of the rest of the members of the Bengal Cabinet that he has been made a scapegoat on this important jute question. The Cabinet does not care whether the growers of jute get adequate relief or at least that amount of relief which they can expect at the hands of the Cabinet. For that, Sir, I am of opinion that the whole Cabinet is to blame, and not Mr. Tamizuddin Khan who has been made only a scapegoat, but whatever the matter may be, the Cabinet cannot escape our bitter comment. If the Cabinet were really sincere, as they profess to be, in doing good to the millions of cultivators, they would have come forward with a bold policy in the very beginning of their career. But they did not do that, and they did not do that also for the reason that they are dominated by another section of the people in this country. If they were free and not so dominated and were really keen to come out with a comprehensive jute policy, they would have done that long, long ago. They so long bungled and bungled in this life-and-death problem of the cultivators, and to-day what they call a comprehensive policy is really incomprehensible. If they were really sincere and if they had a mind to alleviate the sufferings of the people at large, then we could have expected them to formulate a policy in conjunction with all the representative people interested in the welfare of the peasantry, but in the shaping of their policy they did not even care to consult the leaders of the groups in this House. I think they have consulted some of the members of their own group, but have not consulted even the leaders of the other groups, not to speak of ordinary members belonging to the Opposition. They say that it was due to the fault of the cultivators themselves that the record has not been accurate; the cultivators did not co-operate with the officers of the Jute Department while the record was being prepared. Even if it be granted that it was so, why is it that the Government failed to create any confidence of these people in their administration? If Government

could convince these people that they were going to do something good for them, they must have co-operated with Government. Why did they not co-operate with Government in this matter, I ask again? It was because Government could not create any confidence in these people. Even to-day, Government are held in suspicion. The people do not look up to Government as their benefactors, and they have ample reason for that. You did not care to educate them, neither did you try to convince them through leading public men that you were going to do something beneficent. You did not care to take the help of local leaders while making a record of jute lands with a view to dispelling the suspicion lurking in the minds of the people about the activities of the jute registrars. The people have no confidence in the present Ministry and the present Ministry do not care to create that confidence amongst them. Naturally, Sir, the people thought that Government was doing this thing with some ulterior motive and that they would come forward with a piece of taxation measure which they had already given sufficient indication. If by seeing that a number of taxation measures have already found place on the statute book during the régimé of this Government and that this Government are out to explore new avenues of taxation, the cultivators harbour in their minds the idea that the preparation of this record of jute lands was being made so that it might form the basis for new taxation and on that ground withhold their co-operation, I do not think they have done anything for which they can be accused. A suspicion on the ground mentioned may be roused, but what have Government done in order to remove that doubt from their minds. They have practically done nothing. And why? Because they knew from the very beginning that they would resort to some sort of tactics whereby they could capture the imagination of the people at large in the countryside and could carry on the administration in this fashion till the end of their régimé and then when their term will be about to be over they would tell the people that if they returned them next time they would do the rest of their work. So that was the whole trick. Had it not been so, the Government would have come forward with a comprehensive policy and would have tried to execute that policy in a more statesmanlike fashion. But they have no such intention and it will be evident from the following facts, namely, they appointed the primary recorders of jute from amongst certain volunteers as my friend Mr. Abu Hossain Sarkar was good enough to point out to the House. They selected such persons who might be utilised for their future election. Such were the persons that were selected as the primary recorders of jute. There were lots of such primary recorders about whom we know. They have very little education and they even do not know—at least there were some among them who do not know—what acreage means, and they had to deal with settlement records! So, when such men were employed, men

who have no knowledge of acreage, they were very much embarrassed and what could they do about these recording matters? Besides, the time at their disposal was very short. They have no knowledge about survey-matters, and they were so ignorant about them that it was not possible for them to do the work within the time-limit even with others' help. If Government had been sincere, then the first thing they would have done would be to train those people and after they had been given proper training for recording of jute land, they would have been sent to the villages. But without doing that, without giving them any training, Government sent those volunteers to record jute lands and they did the whole thing in a hotch-potch manner. As pointed out by Mr. Abu Hossain Sarkar and by Mr. Shamsuddin Ahmed, the Leader of this Party, lands that were never used as jute lands were recorded as jute lands; for example, bamboo clumps, high roads, pathways, mosques, temples, school buildings, etc., were recorded as jute lands. The reason for this is that those recorders did not go to the jute lands at all. They remained in their houses and finished the business. So, after it was done in this way there was a *golmal* in the country, and we approached the Government, for remedy. In my constituency, as soon as the officers were sent to the villages for the second time to issue licenses and when licenses were being issued, I immediately wrote to the Collector of the district as well as to the Chief Controller of the Jute Regulation Department complaining about the inaccurracies in the jute records. But unfortunately no answer to that question was given. However, when the Krishak Proja Party arranged to hold a Conference in Faridpur—and it was a big success—and when the Krishak Proja Party also appointed a day for observance as Jute Day, and when the members of the Party took a solemn vow to disobey the law and also asked their followers to do the same if Government did not see their way to correct these records, and there was a great row in the country and there was indication that the peasants would not respect this law and they would grow jute not according to the dictation of the Government but according to their own interest, it was then that the Government thought it fit to rectify the mistakes in the records. The rectification is still going on, and I do not know when it will be completed.

Now, Sir, the condition that has been imposed for the rectification of the record is not one which can be easily complied with. My friend the Hon'ble Minister over there knows it very well because he was thick and thin with the cultivators for a greater period of his life that the cultivators in his constituency as well as in the constituencies of other members here are completely ignorant and are unlettered persons. Is it possible for them to make applications to the Assistant Jute Inspectors for the correction of their records? Is it at all possible? Do they know how to read and write? Who would write applications for them? Is it so very easy as you think it to be? No,

Sir. Even if you give them instructions, it will not be possible for them to comply with these requirements. I can tell that from the experience of my constituency. I had given full instructions to the cultivators there to come up with their applications and present them in time, that is, within 7 days, for the time-limit has been so fixed, for the correction of their records, but I knew to my wonder that not even 1/8th of the persons could apply in time or even after, because there was nobody to write out applications for them. They are poor illiterate persons and nobody took care to write out applications on their behalf. So, I say, although you say that you have granted some privilege to them, the privilege of making applications for correction of records, that privilege could not be availed of on account of their illiteracy. So, Sir, it seems you were from the very beginning actuated by a motive not to do any good to the cultivators but you are doing all these things for your future election.

With these words, Sir, I support the motion of Mr. Abu Hossain Sarkar.

Mr. SURENDRA NATH BISWAS: Sir, I beg to move that the demand of Rs. 43,85,000 for expenditure under the head "40—Agriculture" be reduced by Rs. 100.

The Hon'ble Minister has asked us to wait for proper provisions for raising the price of jute. He has asked us to hold ourselves in patience, saying that he has already taken up the regulation of production and that other measures will be taken in due course. Had it been a case of holding ourselves in patience, we would have ungrudgingly done so. The Hon'ble Minister knows fully well that the fall in the price of jute since the year of 1931 has been the main cause of the economic distress in this province. The price of jute is the barometer of the national prosperity of this province, because jute is the chief money crop amongst the marketable crops of Bengal. Before 1931 jute alone used to bring Rs. 70 to 80 crores in this province every year, while all other marketable crops together could not bring more than Rs. 18 crores. Such being the potential value of jute, even the old Government were constrained to find in 1932 that the economic distress was caused by the fall in the price of jute. In their anxiety to raise the price of jute, they appointed the Finlow Committee. That committee submitted its report but to no effect. Then in 1938 this Government also appointed a committee called the Bengal Jute Enquiry Committee. I was a member of that committee. It also submitted its report with certain recommendations. I shall read the portion of those recommendations from that report:—

"According to us the principal measures that we desire to see adopted are (i) the enforcement of compulsory regulation of culti-

vation, and (*ii*) the improvement of the existing marketing arrangements in the mufassal. The main directions in which such improvements should be effected are—

(1) Standardisation of weights and measures.

(2) Standardisation of grades of jute.

(3) Establishment of regulated markets simultaneously all over the jute-growing areas of the province.

(4) Establishment of warehouses simultaneously in all regulated markets not only for the purpose of storage, but also for giving financial accommodation to the jute-growers against deposit of their crops.

(5) Fixation of the price of raw jute and establishment of co-operative societies of jute-growers for the limited purpose indicated in this report."

As regards financial accommodation, two alternative recommendations were made. One recommendation of the Bengal Jute Enquiry Committee was the same as that of the Finlow Committee. It was to the effect that financial arrangements might be made with the banks who might be induced to advance money to the jute-grower against the receipt granted for jute stored by him in the warehouse. There was another recommendation—and it could be said to be my recommendation—it was for the establishment of a sales organisation under the patronage and with the help of Government for selling the entire jute on behalf of the jute-growers of Bengal. According to my scheme such organisation could have sufficient finance for advancing money to the jute-growers who would stock their jute in the warehouses to be established along with regulated markets all over the province. In any case, both the committees have been of opinion that mere regulation of production of jute would not raise the price of jute. Along with regulation there must be some financial arrangement, rather financial accommodation, for the jute-growers when they will store jute in the bonded warehouses, so that they may acquire and increase their holding power. Even the Hon'ble Mr. Tamizuddin Khan has said several times that mere regulation of production of jute will not raise the price of jute and that financial arrangements must be made. That mere regulation of production of jute cannot raise the price has been substantially proved by the fact which is known to all—the effect of shortage of jute crop in the year 1938. In the year 1938, the crop fell short by about 25 per cent. of the ordinary requirements of mills and shippers and yet the price did not rise. Why? The reason is known not only to the Hon'ble Ministers but also to everybody in this House and outside. The reason is that the price policy with regard to jute is controlled by the Indian Jute Mills Association. Whatever price they offer shall have to be accepted. Why? Because the jute-grower has got no holding power. If you read the two agreements

that have been entered into by Government with the Jute Mills Association, you will find that the Government have accepted the price that the mills would give or rather the price dictated by the mills. So long as this state of things will continue, that is, so long as the holding power of the jute-grower is not increased and as a result thereof the price policy is controlled by the Indian Jute Mills Association, no measure will be able to raise the price of jute. So, in order to wrest that policy from the Indian Jute Mills Association and to keep it in the hands of the Government themselves, the Government should arrange for increasing the holding power of the jute-growers by giving them financial accommodation, as has been already suggested not only by myself but also by the Finlow Committee. So far with regard to the measures that we want the Government to adopt for raising the price of jute to an economic level, so that the jute-grower may get a fair and economic price for all time to come.

Now, Sir, I shall deal with another matter which has been very serious and over which the Bengalee members of this House have been very much agitated for the last few months. It is the question of raising the price of this year's crop. We all know that Government have done nothing else than enter into two agreements with the Indian Jute Mills Association for the purpose of raising the price. What are those agreements? By the July agreement Government accepted some rates which the mills would pay. Mills would pay to whom? To the traders, who would supply jute to the mills. By the second agreement also Government accepted the rates which the mills would pay the traders who supply jute. Apart from the low prices that the mills were offering both in July and in December, was there any guarantee or any provision for the jute-grower to get a good price? Was there any provision so that the trader would not be able to offer any low price they would like to the jute-grower? No such provision was made. The jute-growers have been left to the mercy of the law of demand and supply. That has been the achievement of the Government. Then again, Sir, the members of this House will remember that a Press Communiqué was issued on the 8th of July, 1940, by which the Government announced that the Indian Jute Mills Association purchased their requirements of jute for the months of July and August amounting to about 40 lakhs of maunds at an average price of Rs. 11-8 per maund. The Government also announced that the jute-growers should get at least Rs. 9. When that note was published, I issued a statement in the Press asking the Government at once to fix the minimum price of jute at Rs. 9 per maund to be in force at least for the months of July and August, but the Government would not do that. Why? What was the difficulty? The mills not only agreed, but also entered into contracts with traders to buy jute at an average price of Rs. 11-8 to the extent of 40 lakhs of maunds

which represented their requirements for July and August. Still then, where was the bar for fixing the minimum price of jute at Rs. 8 or Rs. 9 in July or August last? Sir, Government did not dare do that, because the Indian Jute Mills Association was opposed to such fixation. And what was the result? The result was that the maximum price that the cultivator got was Rs. 6. I sumbit, Sir, that such things can only happen in a dependent country like ours. Let us see how such serious agrarian problem is dealt with in independent countries. I will not refer to other countries than the United Kingdom and the United States of America. I will refer to two concrete cases, one of which concerns the United Kingdom and the other the United States of America. In 1931 when wheat was selling in the United Kingdom at a price which was one-half the normal price of wheat in that country, a legislative measure called the Wheat Act of 1932 was enacted with a view to compensate the loss to cultivators due to the abnormal fall in its price. As is stated in the Act itself, its object was to provide the wheat-growers of the United Kingdom with a secure market and to fix a price for home-grown wheat without a subsidy from the Exchequer so that it may not affect the people who are interested in the production of this crop. By this Act the farmer was entitled to receive at the end of the year a payment known as deficiency payment, which was a sum equal to the difference between the standard price of wheat and the average price at which it was sold by him. He was allowed to sell his wheat in the open market, but the difference between the market price and the standard price he was entitled to receive as deficiency payment. And the Government did not make this deficiency payment out of the public exchequer. Government found the money by taxing the wheat mill-owners. On the eve of our Ministers' departure to Delhi in December last I said, "Yes, you can go to Delhi, but I doubt whether you will be able to do anything to alleviate the sufferings of the poor jute-growers." I ask them to make a provision like that of the United Kingdom. I asked them to tell the jute-growers to sell their jute at the price prevailing in the open market, and then to make deficiency payments, like the Government of the United Kingdom, to them by taxing the jute trade and industry. But the present Government are lacking in their courage to proceed on that line. We all know that the Indian jute mills made an enormous profit during the last half-year from July to December, 1940. The price index of the jute manufacturers is rising higher and higher, while the price index of raw jute is going down lower and lower. That being the position, justice and equity demanded that the jute-growers ought to have been given such deficiency payment to be borne by the jute mills and the jute trade.

Now, Sir, I shall come to the other case which concerned the United States of America. In 1932-33 when the Government of the United States of America found that the price of cotton fell and

stocks of cotton began to accumulate, they adopted two measures: by one measure Government arranged to make similar deficiency payment to the cotton grower, and by another restricted production and arranged for making rental payment to those cultivators whose lands so long under cotton cultivation were released from such cultivation. Whenever it has been asked in this House as to how Government would help those jute-growers whose lands would be released from jute cultivation, Government have said that they would make sufficient provision. Now, they say that they have made a provision of Rs. 3,15,000 for supplying upon payment seeds of other crops to be sown in lands to be set free from jute cultivation. That means, Sir, where the United States of America made rental payments at the rate of four cents or the like per acre of land released from cotton cultivation as compensation, the Government of Bengal are setting their face against the jute-growers, although they are going to adopt an exactly similar course, namely, to release lands from jute cultivation. May I ask the Hon'ble Minister of Agriculture to consider the case of the poor jute-growers who have been suffering for the last ten years for their uneconomic cultivation of jute and to have mercy on them? My Hon'ble friend may ask, where is the money to come from? My answer is that the present reformed Government have been getting enough money as receipts from the Central customs duty on jute. These receipts from the jute duty should be set apart for making rental payments during the continuance of the crisis through which the jute-growers are now passing. If they had done that during the last four years, they could have set apart Rs. 8,00,00,000 and with this money they could have arranged for making adequate rental payments as was done by the Government of the United States of America when similar occasions arose there. But, alas, Sir, this Government would not do that. Why? Because the Ministers do not feel for the jute-growers, although they profess to be their friends. The Ministers act simply as they are dictated to do by their white masters. Not to speak of making rental payments, the present Government of Bengal have not the courage to follow the example set by the Government of the United Kingdom and the United States of America which taxed the processers, that is, the wheat and cotton industries, and thus to secure money for making deficiency payments to the jute-growers by taxing the jute industry which is almost a monopoly of their white masters. The Government of Bengal will never dare to touch the pockets of the white mill-owners whose kith and kin are the real masters of this unfortunate country, because if they get dissatisfied, the legs of the Ministerial Bench will break and the present Ministry will collapse. That is the reason why the Government of Bengal will not and cannot mete out a square deal to the jute-growers, although they profess to be the protectors of their interests. With these words, Sir, I commend my cut motion to the acceptance of the House.

Maulvi MD. ISRAIL: Sir, so far as the jute policy of the Government is concerned, I will confine myself to the question of restriction of jute cultivation. The Jute Enquiry Committee unanimously recommended that jute cultivation should be compulsorily restricted. It was decided, however, that instead of compulsory restriction it should be done in a voluntary way which method was tried from 1934 to 1940. But the experience gathered from that experiment has proved that it was wholly fruitless. So, this Government has been compelled to take recourse to compulsory restriction. So far as compulsory restriction is concerned, a lot of difficulty has arisen owing to incorrect recording of jute lands. The Jute Restriction Department prepared the record for the issue of jute licenses in such hurry that it has now been proved to be an unsatisfactory record. Very lately, of course, Government have issued instructions for the rectification of the errors made in the record. That was done only when we brought to the notice of Government the difficulties that were being experienced in the country-side for such wrong record. Then, there is another point which is agitating the minds of the public, and that is with regard to the areas where nothing but jute can be grown. Under clause 3(2) of the Jute Regulation Act areas, particularly known as *char* or *bhati* areas, should have been recorded as lands which ought to be exempted from the operation of this Act, but Government or the jute regulation staff, either due to negligence or want of experience, failed to record lands which ought to have been included under section 3(2) of the Jute Regulation Act, and this has given rise to a lot of difficulties. Particularly in East Bengal where there are so many rivers and so many *chars* and where there are low lands, the dissatisfaction and discontent among the people is very much indeed, and Government up till now has not taken any step to get it recorded under section 3(2). From a question just answered to-day and from another question which was put by me on this particular aspect, it appears that Government gave an assurance that under the amended Act which would be brought into operation, applications will be invited and enquired into by the Collector, but the difficulty of the people will be that it will not be possible for the cultivators to approach the Collector and get their lands recorded under section 3(2). I would ask Government to invest the power either to the Circle Officers or the jute committees so that the jute-growers may approach these committees or the local officers—Circle Officers or Debt Settlement Officers—to get their lands recorded under section 3(2).

There is another question which is being raised in the countryside, *i.e.*, the co-operation of Assam in this jute restriction scheme. Government have made it amply clear that, so far as the co-operation of Assam is concerned, they will make propaganda for voluntary restriction and for 1941 crop prepare a record of jute lands this year and will introduce compulsory restriction in the year 1942. But the recent statement

issued in the Press by the Minister of Assam that he will not include fallow lands which will be brought under cultivation in course of time, has given rise to an apprehension in our minds and unless the Assam Government falls in line with the Government of Bengal, the jute regulation policy may get a setback and the good motive with which this matter is being pursued may be lost. So, I would ask the Government of Bengal to see either through the Government of India or by any other means that the Government of Assam falls in line with the Government of Bengal in this matter at least in the year 1942.

Sir, there is an unusual state of things now in the countryside so far as the price of jute is concerned. For the last one month or so, the price of jute has so unusually fallen that the cultivators are not finding any market in the mufassal to sell their jute. There was an agreement by the Government of Bengal with the Indian Jute Mills Association that they would purchase 7½ lakhs of bales up to the 15th January and up to 15th February they would purchase 25 lakhs of bales. But the Indian Jute Mills Association or members thereof are not following that agreement. They have up till now, *i.e.*, up to 15th February, purchased, I think, only 21 or 22 lakhs of bales. They themselves are not purchasing and the cultivators are not finding any seller in the mufassal and ultimately the price has gone down to Re. 1 and in some places jute is being sold at even less than Re 1 So, I would invite the attention of Government to the serious state of things and also to a clause in the agreement itself that if the Indian Jute Mills' Association did not purchase the quota fixed by Government, then Government would purchase the balance. But we find that Government is not purchasing the balance which has been left by the Indian Jute Mills Association, and this has led to this state of things.

So far as jute regulation itself is concerned, Government has issued instructions for the rectification of some clerical mistakes, but, so far as the partial omission of jute lands in some of the lands is concerned, no instruction has been issued up till now and the instructions that have been issued are not being followed in the mufassal due to the fact that the officers who have been entrusted for the enforcement of the Jute Regulation Act are not discharging their duties properly and there are areas from which complaints are being received about the non-compliance of these instructions.

There is another point, namely, that Government have appointed a Special Officer for enquiring into the *fatka* market, and we understand that officer has submitted an interim report. The *fatka* market is to a great extent responsible for the fluctuations in the jute market. Now the Jute Enquiry Committee suggested that the *fatka* market should be abolished and there was another suggestion that the *fatka* market

should be based on loose jute instead of on *pucca* bales, but the Government has not evidently followed this suggestion with the result that the fluctuation in the *fatka* market is still continuing. (Mr. M. SHAMSUDDIN AHMED: It is very helpful!)

So far as the restriction quota fixed by Government is concerned, there has been great criticism levelled against it as to why Government fixed one-third basis. The figures supplied by Government are that 120 lakhs of bales will be this year's production and 20 lakhs of bales are now with the jute mills and 3 lakhs of bales with the cultivators. So, the total production this year would be 143 lakhs of bales. The total consumption will be 58 lakhs consumed by the mills, 20 lakhs to be sent to foreign countries and 5 lakhs of bales for local consumption. On that basis it was assumed that there will be a surplus of 60 lakhs of bales from this year's production. So, unless there was restriction to the extent of one-third, it was impossible to maintain the price of jute. So far as this regulation scheme is concerned, I welcome the fact that Government has taken a bold step and hope that Government will not withdraw from the position that they have taken up. If they withdraw from that position, then it will be to the great detriment of the cultivators.

Sir, there is another thing. Government have made arrangement for supply of seeds, but the way in which they are supplying seeds is not at all satisfactory The people are not getting an adequate supply of seeds from Government. Government should see that they supply seeds at a special rate.

Mr. PUSPAJIT BARMA: Sir, I rise to support the motion moved by Mr. Abu Hossain Sarkar.

Jute is one of the principal money crops of Bengal. The economic prosperity and happiness of rural Bengal entirely depends on the fair price of jute. The cultivators are the backbone of the province. They till the soil and produce the wealth of Bengal by the sweat of their brow. These producers of wealth are now on the verge of ruin. They have no food and drink and have no clothing in spite of their hard labour from morning to evening. On their economic prosperity and happiness, the prosperity and peace of Bengal depend.

Jute stands first out of the three money crops of Bengal. The unusual fall in the price of jute which causes the fall in the price of other crops, too, is the main cause of the ruinous position of rural Bengal. Jute grows unlike other money crops in almost all parts of the province. The cultivators entirely depend on the price of jute. The economic condition of rural Bengal varies largely with the rise and fall of the price of jute. The problem of jute is the vital problem of rural Bengal. The unusual fall in the price of jute brought rural Bengal to an unusual condition.

Sir, the Government have done and have been doing many good things. But they have done practically nothing seriously towards raising the price of jute on which depends the *dal* and *bhat* of the entire masses of the province. Up till now, the Government have spent a huge amount of money and have done a good many things for jute, but I doubt whether they have done these with all seriousness and honesty of purpose. All the measures that have been taken and are being taken for the better price of jute is sufficient proof of their eye-washing and unsteady policy. The Government Ordinances regarding jute had seriously been criticised by both the Press and the members of the Legislature. Even the Cabinet had to face the serious attack of personal gain for these Jute Ordinances.

Apart from the Ordinances, when I think of the preliminary measures of the Government for the enforcement of the Jute Regulation Act that was passed by the Assembly last year, I doubt the seriousness and steadiness of the Government to enforce the Act for the better and higher price of jute. Huge sums of money have been spent for the two operations of the primary recording of jute lands. But the recording of lands was incorrect and insufficient. After the first operation, the primary recording of jute land, was over the ill-fated Jute Regulation Act was passed, and when the time for the enforcement of the Act came, the Government availed themselves of the opportunity of press and platform propaganda for the incorrectness of the recording of jute lands, stopped the operation of the new Act and ordered another fresh recording of jute lands. The slackness in the operation of the Act tempted and encouraged the people, due to a better price for that year, to increase the jute cultivation. The result was a disastrous fall in the price of jute and general feeling of dissatisfaction and hopelessness. With it, the Government's speculating propaganda to stock the jute for better price aggravated the situation.

Sir, this wanton and unsteady policy of the Government brought directly the rural population to the verge of ruin and indirectly has shaken the whole economic structure of Bengal.

Now, Sir, so far as the two jute recording operations are concerned, I shall say that both the operations were full of incorrectness. The Government undertook the second operation without making any thorough enquiry into the defects and mistakes of the first operation. The result was that the department met with the same defects and incorrectness in the second operation as in the first operation. The Government are solely responsible for these defects and inaccuracies. The Government never cared for the correct recording of lands. Both the operations were so hastily done that the correctness of recording lands could never be expected from the number of people who were employed for these purposes. The Government again allowed concessions to those people only whose lands have not been recorded in the

time of primary recording operation, but others whose lands were recorded but not correctly recorded will be deprived of this concession. The partial policy of concession would bring more discontent and dissatisfaction among the poor starving masses. The Government should give the concession to all the people to correct all the mistakes of the department. The Government could have followed the same concession policy as they are now making without undertaking another fresh recording operation. The second jute recording operation was absolute waste of money, as it was full of inaccuracies like the first operation.

I believe that the jute regulation policy may help the Government to fix the minimum price of jute. The Hon'ble Mr. Tamizuddin Khan said so at the time of the passing of the Jute Regulation Act of 1940. If the Hon'ble Minister is absolutely sure of the fixing of the minimum price of jute by this Act, then why did he stop the enforcement of the Act last year? Sir, shall I not be correct if I say that the Government have no sincere desire to fix the minimum price of jute? Shall I not be correct if I say that the jute policy of the Government is unsteady and mere eye-wash? Sir, the time has really come when the Government should take up a sincere and steady jute policy to relieve the starving masses. If the Government do not follow a steady jute policy with all sincerity and courage and fix a fair minimum price for jute, then the time may come when the starving rural masses will rise up to shake the whole administrative machinery.

The Hon'ble Mr. TAMIZUDDIN KHAN: Mr. Speaker, Sir, I rise to oppose the motions that have been moved. The objections that have been mainly taken to the regulation policy of Government may be divided under two heads. One is that regulation is being enforced on the basis of a record which is not correct and the other objection is that mere regulation cannot raise the price of jute and that without the fixation of a minimum price, regulation will mean nothing.

Sir, the time at my disposal will not permit to give a detailed reply to the various other questions that have been raised. I will therefore concentrate more on the points I have just stated than on the other minor points that have been raised in the course of this debate.

Sir, first of all, I think the House will realise that in a gigantic operation like this it was inevitable that there would be mistakes here and there. Mr. Abu Hossain Sarkar in his usual way has said that mosques, temples and roads have been recorded as jute lands——

Mr. SPEAKER: And burial-grounds also. (Laughter.)

The Hon'ble Mr. TAMIZUDDIN KHAN: And burial-grounds also as you have been pleased to say. May I tell Mr. Abu Hossain Sarkar that in even cadastral survey operations that are conducted with much more care and caution and upon which far larger amounts of money are spent than has been done on the recording of jute, mistakes like these very often occur? I may also tell him that from my own personal experience I have seen that in one instance the name of the husband of a respectable Muslim lady was recorded as Abhoy Charan Sarkar.

Mr. SASANKA SEKHAR SANYAL: Is that a justification for the mistakes committed by the recorders?

The Hon'ble Mr. TAMIZUDDIN KHAN: But my friend should realise that the recorders are, after all, human beings and that mistakes are inevitable. But, Sir, those who are now posing themselves as the friends of cultivators remained silent till only the other day when the licensing operations commenced. They did not raise their little finger when the records were being prepared. Everyone was requested to bring to the notice of Government any mistake or irregularity committed by the jute regulation staff, but unfortunately these friends of the cultivators never cared to look to the interests of the cultivators in those strenuous days: but now when they find that there have been certain mistakes and that there has been some amount of resentment amongst the cultivators as a result of such mistakes, they have come forward as the friends of the cultivators. But, Sir, the Government which is responsive to the will of the people having found that really there were mistakes which required to be corrected issued very elaborate instructions for correcting those mistakes. All kinds of clerical mistakes are now being corrected, and everything possible to be done under the present circumstances is being done. Now, Sir, that has taken the wind out of the sail of the agitators, and that is why I find that only a half-hearted attempt has been made on the floor of this House to assail the regulation policy of the Government on the score of mistakes in the records.

Sir, they say that mere regulation is good for nothing. But even my friend, Mr. Surendra Nath Biswas, who, I think, was the Vice-President of the Jute Enquiry Committee, participated in the recommendation of the committee that the main factor in the jute policy of Government should be regulation——

Mr. SURENDRA NATH BISWAS: I do not deny that.

The Hon'ble Mr. TAMIZUDDIN KHAN: But it is my friends over there who deny it, and it is for their benefit that I am citing the example of my redoubtable friend, Mr. Surendra Nath Biswas, who is supposed to be a friend of the cultivator.

Sir, I admit that mere regulation may not raise the price of jute or, more properly speaking, may not fetch an economic price for jute to the cultivator under all circumstances; but under ordinary circumstances it is to be expected that a proper regulation of the crop is bound to give the cultivator a fair price for the commodity. Mr. Biswas, I think, will not forget that shortly after the last Great War the price of jute rose to Rs. 25 or Rs. 30 per maund. Was there then a fixation of a minimum price for the commodity? Shortly after the outbreak of the present war the price of jute rose up. Was that on account of the fixation of a minimum price? If demand is greater than supply, prices are generally bound to go up. And what is the object of this regulation? The object of the regulation is to adjust supply to the probable demand, and if it can be properly done, we hope that it will give a fair price to the cultivator. But, as I have already admitted, it may not, under all circumstances give him a fair price, especially under the present circumstances. The present situation is absolutely uncertain; no one knows what will happen to-morrow. We have decided upon the curtailment of the coming year's jute cultivation by two-thirds on the assumption of a certain probable demand for jute in the next season. The House knows that the only purchasers of loose jute at present are the jute mills, the United Kingdom and the United States of America. Japan is rattling her sword. If Japan enters the arena of war, I am afraid the American market will be closed to us, and if that happens, no one can say that the regulation of the crop will give a fair price to the cultivator in the coming season. Therefore, certain unforeseen circumstances may intervene and may in some cases defeat the purpose of regulation; but, as I have already said, in ordinary circumstances, regulation itself is likely to give the cultivator a fair price for his commodity.

Now, Sir, my friends have said that Government is going to regulate the crop without fixing a minimum price for jute. Do they want that a minimum price should have been already fixed? Was that at all a practical proposition? Do they not know what was the production of jute in the last season and what was the demand? Under those circumstances can a mere fixation of a minimum price raise the price of jute? An absurd proposition——

Mr. SURENDRA NATH BISWAS: Nobody says so.

The Hon'ble Mr. TAMIZUDDIN KHAN: If nobody says so, then everybody should wait and see what the Government does when the proper time comes. I should like to pursue my argument a little further. When there is a large surplus production, how can a minimum price be fixed unless Government at the same time undertakes to purchase the surplus that remains in the market. It is

impossible to fix a minimum price without undertaking the responsibility of purchasing the surplus. Supposing under present circumstances a minimum price of Rs. 10 per maund was fixed for jute. Will the jute mills purchase jute at Rs. 10 under present circumstances? Of course they may purchase a little quantity, their minimum requirements, but the rest of the jute will remain unsold in the hands of the cultivators. A Government that cannot undertake to purchase the remaining quantity should never think of fixing a minimum price under present circumstances. (Mr. SURENDRA NATH BISWAS: Why Government does not come forward and purchase?) My friend Mr. Biswas should know what are the resources of the present Government and what amount of money will be necessary to purchase the surplus. It is absolutely beyond the capacity of the present Government. Not only that, Sir. Look at the risks that are involved. All who are interested in jute know that it is a commodity which is of various qualities and of various kinds. The cultivators sell jute not in grades, but in an unassorted form. If the minimum price is fixed, is it to be expected that under present circumstances a law like that can be effectively enforced? Certainly not. Every kind of attempt will be made to evade that law and those who intend to do so will be able to evade the law with the greatest possible ease.

Then, Sir, look at the difficulties of purchasing, the agencies that have to be employed for purchase, the qualities that have to be purchased, the storing facilities that have to be provided for. Is that an easy task? Can anyone say that Government should launch upon a wild scheme like that without thought and without caution? Certainly not. Therefore, Sir, I think the House will realise that all these various difficulties are involved in the proposal to fix a minimum price, but I say, Sir, that circumstances may arise when it may be necessary to fix a minimum price, and I do not say that the proposition of fixing a minimum price is altogether outside the purview of the Government's policy. If necessary, Government will try to do that, but Government will have to do that only after obvious difficulties that are there have been solved and not before.

Sir, Mr. Abu Hossain Sarkar has said that this Government has done nothing to raise the price of jute or to give the cultivator a proper price for his jute. Sir, does my friend really believe that jute could be sold in the present season at the price at which it has been sold unless the Government intervened? Jute would not have sold even at Re. 1 per maund unless Government intervened and made arrangements with the jute mills.

Then my friend Mr. Sarkar has said that nothing has been done by the Bengal Government as regards new uses of jute. He should know, Sir, that there is a committee which is called the Central Jute Committee and he also should know that that committee has been applying

its mind very intensively on this question of new uses of jute. The Government of Bengal has no money to waste. As the Central Jute Committee has already taken up this useful subject, the Government of Bengal was, I think, not called upon to spend money on the same project.

Then, Sir, Mr. Abu Hossain Sarkar has also said that, in a certain place in America people were using paper bags in place of jute bags because jute bags were not available there, and he abuses the Government for not having done anything towards supplying jute bags to that country. Sir, Mr. Sarkar, prone to exaggeration as he always is, has, I think, surpassed even himself on this occasion. He has out-Heroded Herod. He thinks that he is far more shrewd than the gentleman sitting on his left. If there was any opportunity to sell jute bags like that, does Mr. Sarkar think that these shrewd businessmen would have missed it and would have waited for Mr. Sarkar to remind them that there was a great opportunity?

Then, Sir, Mr. Shamsuddin——

Mr. SASANKA SEKHAR SANYAL: Mr. Speaker, Sir, if the Minister takes about one hour in course of one day's debate, then the Opposition gets no opportunity to speak on other motions.

Mr. SPEAKER: The thing is that the Minister is speaking on two or three motions.

Mr. SASANKA SEKHAR SANYAL: No, Sir, he is speaking on one motion about the jute policy.

Mr. SPEAKER: He is speaking on the motion of Mr. Biswas as well as on the motion of Mr. Abu Hossain Sarkar.

Mr. SASANKA SEKHAR SANYAL: It is the same thing, Sir.

Mr. SPEAKER: In that case I shall have to restrict each motion. This is the motion in which you have traversed the whole arena of agriculture as regards jute policy.

Mr. SASANKA SEKHAR SANYAL: Sir, I quite appreciate that, but you will kindly realise that if the Minister monopolises the debate, the Opposition gets no opportunity at all.

Mr. SPEAKER: I hope you will ask him to realise that.

Mr. SASANKA SEKHAR SANYAL: He has already spoken for about half an hour.

The Hon'ble Mr. TAMIZUDDIN KHAN: I hope that the Opposition desire that I should pay some respect to the arguments advanced by them on the floor of the House. (Laughter.)

Sir, I was going to say that Mr. Shamsuddin Ahmed was very bitter when he rose to speak. I can easily realise the reason for his bitterness. He was so bitter that he took leave of his reason altogether. I would only like to give one or two examples. He says that in some Government communiqué or Government notification people had been advised to grow Napier grass, *jowar*, *bhutta* and things like that on the land released on account of jute restriction and he exultingly said that the Government of Bengal are so ignorant of things obtaining in the rural areas that they do not know that these things can only be grown on highland and therefore how could these things be grown on land released from jute? Sir, my friend comes from a district which, I think, is not a lowlying district. My friend also knows that not only lowland is going to be released on account of the restriction policy of Government, but highland also is going to be released. What was the harm if the people were advised to grow these crops on the lands released from jute? Did this necessarily mean that the instruction was to sow these crops on lowlands that are over-flooded during the rainy season? I think that the average jute-grower has common sense enough to realise the meaning of such an instruction, although Mr. Shamsuddin Ahmed in the bitterness of his mind fails to realise the meaning of such an instruction.

Then my friend Mr. Shamsuddin Ahmed could not help giving a reply to the remark that was made by my honourable colleague the other day in characterising the present agitators against the jute regulation policy of Government as the enemies of the country. I think that that remark went home and that is the reason why even after the lapse of these few days Mr. Shamsuddin could not help giving a reply to that. (Mr. M. SHAMSUDDIN AHMED: Therefore, you issue the circulars.) I would again repeat—I am not saying that it is Mr. Shamsuddin Ahmed or Mr. Abu Hossain Sarkar—that those people who incite the growers under the present circumstances, who take advantage of the present circumstances, who take advantage of the illiteracy of the growers and who take advantage of the little disadvantage to which some growers have been put on account of the restriction scheme,—these people, who taking advantage of this situation propose that the regulation scheme should be dropped, are the enemies of the cultivators. They incite the people to flout the regulation law promulgated by Government. Those who incite the people to break the law are, I repeat, the enemies of the cultivators. The unfortunate situation of the present year arose out of the fact that Government were misled by people like these about a year ago in not enforcing the regulation of the crop at that time. Now, these people are again repeating

their old tactics and are again trying to stampede the Government to go back upon their policy of regulation. Sir, I say that whatever attempts these agitators may make to force the Government to give up this policy of regulation are going to fail. Government are determined to carry on their policy of regulation because they are convinced that unless the coming year's crop is regulated, the situation will be absolutely unmanageable. As I have already said that the shrewd cultivators will not fail to find out these false friends and they will give them no quarter.

Now, my friend has also said that nothing is being done regarding Assam and Bihar. I have already said that Government have been taking adequate steps to bring these Governments into line with Bengal.

Sir, I shall refer to certain things said by Mr. Israil and then conclude. It has been said by Mr. Israil that all lands which should have been recorded under section 3 (*2*) of the Act—those lands on which nothing but jute can be grown—have not been so recorded. That may be so. We admit that, but I have already stated that such records could only have been made if the cultivators concerned had made applications for that purpose. Now, those cultivators who made applications for the record of their lands under section 3 (*2*) and whose applications may not have been properly heard before, will have an opportunity of having their applications reheard if they apply for that. That will give them some relief. But, Sir, I would like to remind the House that this was a very dangerous provision in the Act because all kinds of growers could take advantage of this provision of the law, and unless Government were very strict, I think, the whole purpose of the Act might be defeated by people taking recourse to this provision of the Act. Therefore, what Government propose is that shortly after the sowing season is over, the Amendment Act will be enforced and when this is enforced, certainly amongst other applications, applications also will be made to the effect that lands on which nothing but jute can be grown should be recorded as such. Now, what Government propose to do is this—Government will make enquiry about these applications when the lands are generally over-flooded. If it is found that these lands are remaining fallow, and that no crop is being grown on the land, that will be a presumption that these are lands on which nothing but jute can be grown. If such investigation is made at other times, it is almost impossible to refute a claim that a particular land cannot grow anything but jute. Therefore, I think the difficulty that my friend Mr. Israil points out will be met as soon as the Amendment Act is enforced.

Then, Sir, my friend Mr. Israil has also raised the point that no relief is now being given to those growers whose lands have been partially omitted. This is not exactly so, because the cases of those whose lands have been partially omitted are also going to be investigated under certain circumstances. We have already announced that

if those persons who have been aggrieved by any mistake in the record had put in objections whether in time or out of time, then these objections will again be looked into if they so desire. Therefore, the applications of those persons whose lands were partially omitted, if they had already applied for the correction of the records and if those applications were not heard on account of hurry or any other cause, will be reheard. So, a large number of cases like this will come under that provision and the people concerned will be given relief.

Sir, I am sorry that I have taken more time than I thought I would take. I also apologise to the House if I have not been able to touch all the points that have been raised, but I hold that the motions that have been moved have no legs to stand upon, and I hope the House will reject them.

The motion of Mr. Surendra Nath Biswas that the demand of Rs. 43,85,000 under the head "40—Agriculture" be reduced by Rs. 100 was then put and lost.

The motion of Maulvi Abu Hossain Sarkar that the demand of Rs. 43,85,000 for expenditure under the head "40—Agriculture" be reduced by Rs. 100, was then put and a division called.

(While the division bell was ringing Mr. M. Shamsuddin Ahmed observed: "We have received no reply to my question whether circulars were issued to District Magistrates prohibiting holding of meetings even to discuss the jute question," to which, however, no reply was given.)

Then the division was taken, with the following result:—

AYES—30.

Abdul Wahed, Maulvi.
Abu Hossain Sarkar, Maulvi.
Ahmed Khan, Mr. Syed.
Banerji, Mr. Satya Priya.
Barma, Mr. Puspajit.
Barman, Babu Shyama Prosad.
Basu, Mr. Santosh Kumar.
Bhawmik, Dr. Gobinda Chandra.
Biswas, Babu Lakshmi Narayan.
Biswas, Mr. Surendra Nath.
Bose, Mr. Sarat Chandra.
Chaudhuri, Rai Harendra Nath.
Das, Mr. Monmohan.
Das Gupta, Babu Khagendra Nath.
Giasuddin Ahmed, Mr.
Gupta, Mr. J. N.
Hasan Ali Choudhury, Mr. Syed.
Jonab Ali Majumdar, Maulvi.
Kundu, Mr. Nishitha Nath.
Maji, Mr. Adwaita Kumar.
Majumdar, Mrs. Hemaprova.
Mandal, Mr. Jogendra Nath.
Maniruzzaman Islamabadi, Maulana Md.
Nasker, Mr. Hem Chandra.
Nausher Ali, Mr. Syed.
Roy, Mr. Charu Chandra.
Roy, Mr. Manmatha Nath.
Sanyal, Mr. Sasanka Sekhar.
Shamsuddin Ahmed, Mr. M.
Waliur Rahman, Maulvi.

NOES—65.

Abdul Aziz, Maulana Md.
Abdul Hakim Vikrampuri, Maulvi Md.
Abdul Hamid, Mr. A. M.
Abdul Karim, Mr.
Abdul Majid, Mr. Syed.
Abdul Wahab Khan, Mr.
Abdur Rahman, Khan Bahadur A. F. M.
Abdur Razzak, Maulvi.
Abdus Shaheed, Maulvi Md.
Abul Hosain Ahmed, Mr.
Abul Quasem, Maulvi.
Ahmed Hosain, Mr.
Aftabuddin Ahmed, Khan Bahadur Maulvi.
Aminullah, Khan Sahib Maulvi.

Anwarul Azim, Khan Bahadur Md.
Ashrafali, Mr. M.
Azhar Ali, Maulvi.
Badruddoja, Mr. Syed.
Biswas, Mr. Rasik Lal.
Chippendale, Mr. J. W.
Clark, Mr. I. A.
Das, Mr. Anukul Chandra.
Das, Rai Sahib Kirit Bhusan.
Farhad Raza Choudhury, Mr. M.
Fazlul Huq, the Hon'ble Mr. A. K.
Fazlul Quadir, Khan Bahadur Maulvi.
Fazlur Rahman, Mr. (Dacca).
Fazlur Rahman, Mr. (Mymensingh).
Griffiths, Mr. C.
Gyasuddin Ahmed Choudhury, Alhadj.
Hafizuddin Choudhuri, Maulvi.
Hamiduddin Ahmed, Khan Sahib.
Hasina Murshed, Mrs., M.B.E.
Hawkings, Mr. R. J.
Heywood, Mr. Rogers.
Hirtzel, Mr. M. A. F.
Idris Ahmed Mia, Maulvi.
Jalaluddin Ahmad, Khan Bahadur Maulvi.
Mandal, Mr. Jagat Chandra.
Maniruddin Akhand, Maulvi.
Mohammed Ali, Khan Bahadur.
Moslem Ali Mollah, Maulvi M.
Muhammad Israil, Maulvi.
Mullick, the Hon'ble Mr. Mukunda Behary.
Mustagawsal Haque, Mr. Syed.
Patton, Mr. W. C.
Rahman, Khan Bahadur A. M. L.
Raikut, the Hon'ble Mr. Prasanna Deb.
Roy, Mr. Dhananjoy.
Sadaruddin Ahmed, Mr.
Sarkar, Babu Madhusudan.
Serajul Islam, Mr.
Shahabuddin, Mr. Khwaja, C.B.E.
Shamsuddin Ahmed, Khondkar, Mr.
Stark, Mr. A. F.
Sinclair, Mr. J. F.
Sirdar, Babu Litta Munda.
Suhrawardy, the Hon'ble Mr. H. S.
Speller, Mr. J. H.
Tamizuddin Khan, the Hon'ble Mr.
Tofel Ahmed Choudhury, Maulvi Haji.
Walker, Mr. W. A. M.
Whitehead, Mr. R. B.
Wordsworth, Mr. W. C.
Yusuf Ali Choudhury, Mr.

The Ayes being 30, and the Noes 65, the motion was lost.

Adjournment.

It being 8-5 p.m.—

The House was adjourned till 4-45 p.m. on Friday, the 14th March, 1941, at the Assembly House, Calcutta.

Proceedings of the Bengal Legislative Assembly assembled under the provisions of the Government of India Act, 1935.

THE ASSEMBLY met in the Assembly House, Calcutta, on Friday, the 14th March, 1941, at 4-45 p.m.

Present:

Mr. Speaker (the Hon'ble Sir MUHAMMAD AZIZUL HAQUE, C.I.E., Khan Bahadur), in the Chair, 9 Hon'ble Ministers and 168 members.

Obituary.

Mr. SPEAKER: Ladies and gentlemen, you must have been shocked at the very sad and untimely death of Sir Muhammed Sulaiman. He was a jurist of international repute, an eminent scientist who has done much in the field of mathematical researches which won him fame all over the world and, above all, a gentleman in the true sense of the term. Sir Sulaiman's sudden death has come as a great shock to many of us who personally knew him and is a great loss to India. I feel that it is our duty to send a message of condolence to the bereaved family, and I hope that you will kindly rise in your seats to signify your assent.

(The members rose in their seats.)

Thank you, ladies and gentlemen.

STARRED QUESTIONS

(to which oral answers were given)

Malaria in Jessore district.

***154. Khan Bahadur Maulana AHMED ALI ENAYETPURI:** (*a*) Is the Hon'ble Minister in charge of the Public Health and Local Self-Government Department aware that the death rate has abnormally increased in the district of Jessore owing to malaria and other epidemic diseases from July, 1940, up to 31st January, 1941?

(*b*) If the answer to (*a*) is in the affirmative, will the Hon'ble Minister be pleased to lay on the table a statement showing for the period—

(*i*) the number of deaths in each thana; and

(ii) the number of them that are children?

(c) What steps the Hon'ble Minister has taken to combat the disease?

MINISTER in charge of the PUBLIC HEALTH and LOCAL SELF-GOVERNMENT DEPARTMENT (the Hon'ble Nawab Khwaja Habibullah Bahadur, of Dacca): (a) There has been increase in the death rates in the year 1940 from cholera, smallpox and malaria compared to those in 1939; but the rise cannot be said to be abnormal.

(b) A statement furnishing figures up to November, 1940, is laid on the Library table.

(c) A statement is laid on the Library table showing action taken by the Public Health Department to combat malaria. Medical Licentiates and Sanitary Inspectors were also deputed whenever necessary fo. other epidemic work.

Mr. ATUL KRISHNA GHOSE: Is the Hon'ble Minister aware of the fact that there were demands for quinine from various parts and that they did not receive it?

The Honb'le Nawab Khwaja HABIBULLAH Bahadur, of Dacca: As far as I am aware, whenever there has been a demand, we have always tried to supply quinine.

Mr. ATUL KRISHNA GHOSE: Will the Hon'ble Minister be pleased to state whether any Sanitary Inspector was sent to Sripur thana where as per statement of Government in the month of July the death rate of children was 59·7 per cent.?

The Hon'ble Nawab Khwaja HABIBULLAH Bahadur, of Dacca: I want notice to state if exactly anybody was sent.

Mr. ATUL KRISHNA GHOSE: Will the Hon'ble Minister be pleased to state if any Sanitary Inspector was sent to Salkia thana in the month of——

Mr. SPEAKER: First please satisfy yourself whether it is the duty of Government to send any Sanitary Inspector.

Mr. ATUL KRISHNA GHOSE: Yes, Sir. Government in a statement recorded that whenever necessary they would send Sanitary Inspectors. But, unfortunately, the demand is very great and there was no man available and men are dying like cats and dogs from malaria——

Mr. SPEAKER: I think it is the duty of the district board.

The Hon'ble Nawab Khwaja HABIBULLAH Bahadur, of Dacca: In the first place it is the primary duty of the district board, and if the district board informs us, we send medicines to the places concerned. As to whether anybody has actually gone or not, I would want a separate notice.

Mr. ATUL KRISHNA GHOSE: Will the Hon'ble Minister be pleased to state the reason why more quinine was not supplied to the district of Jessore than a quanity worth Rs. 14,050 as stated in the statement?

The Hon'ble Nawab Khwaja HABIBULLAH Bahadur, of Dacca: As I have already stated, whenever there has been a demand we have met it.

Mr. ATUL KRISHNA GHOSE: Will the Hon'ble Minister make an enquiry into the present state of affairs due to malaria in the district of Jessore?

Mr. SPEAKER: That is too general a question.

Mr. ATUL KRISHNA GHOSE: Will the Hon'ble Minister be pleased to state whether he will take some steps with regard to Salkia where the death roll is very heavy?

Mr. SPEAKER: Now you ask a question which does not arise.

Failure of jute and paddy crops in Mymensingh district.

***155. Maulvi ABDUL WAHED:** (*a*) Is the Hon'ble Minister in charge of the Revenue Department aware—

(*i*) that there has been a general failure of *aus* paddy and partial failure of *aman* paddy and jute in the Mymensingh district specially in Ishwarganj and Nandail police-stations; and

(*ii*) that acute distress has already set in in most of the said areas?

(*b*) If the answer to (*a*) is in the affirmative, will the Hon'ble Minister be pleased to state what steps, if any, the Government have taken to alleviate the distress?

MINISTER in charge of the REVENUE DEPARTMENT (the Hon'ble Sir Bijoy Prasad Singh Roy): (*a*) (*i*) The *aus* paddy is reported to have failed by 40 per cent. and *aman* paddy and jute by about 25 per cent.

(*ii*) No.

(*b*) Does not arise.

Mr. SURENDRA NATH BISWAS: Will the Hon'ble Minister be pleased to state what is the percentage of failure of crop by which Government determines whether distress has taken place or not?

The Hon'ble Sir BIJOY PRASAD SINGH ROY: It depends on the circumstances of each area.

Mr. NIHARENDU DUTTA MAZUMDAR: Will the Hon'ble Minister be pleased to state whether he is aware that in several villages under police-stations Ishwarganj and Nandail there are people prostrate for many days with hunger on the point of death due to starvation?

The Hon'ble Sir BIJOY PRASAD SINGH ROY: It is not so. The fact is that the Additional Collector toured very recently in this area to ascertain the situation and the situation is by no means acute. But it is apprehended that it may become so in April when Government may have to take certain steps. In fact, we have already instructed the agricultural officer to send 10,000 maunds of paddy seeds for distribution and crop loans and agricultural loans will be granted if and when necessary. Government have been very carefully watching the situation, and I can assure my honourable friend opposite that necessary steps will be taken in this matter.

Mr. NIHARENDU DUTTA MAZUMDAR: Will the Hon'ble Minister be pleased to state, in view of their apprehension of there being acute distress in April, what steps Government has taken for providing gratuitous and other immediate relief apart from agricultural loans and seed-supply?

The Hon'ble Sir BIJOY PRASAD SINGH ROY: I am afraid that my honourable friend has misunderstood me a bit. I never said that the situation was already acute, but I said that it might become so. We are watching the situation. We have already instructed the agricultural officer to send 10,000 maunds of paddy seeds to help the agriculturists, and agricultural loans and crop loans will be distributed if and when necessary.

Mr. NIHARENDU DUTTA MAZUMDAR: Will the Hon'ble Minister be pleased to state whether he is in a position to say as to how many villages were actually visited by the Additional Collector who had been to that area?

The Hon'ble Sir BIJOY PRASAD SINGH ROY: I am not in a position to say that.

Mr. CHARU CHANDRA ROY: Will the Hon'ble Minister be pleased to state what percentage of population in Ishwarganj and Nandail are labourers?

The Hon'ble Sir BIJOY PRASAD SINGH ROY: I do not think that the question arises.

Mr. CHARU CHANDRA ROY: Does not the Hon'ble Minister think it proper that the day labourers of these two thanas specially required gratuitous relief from this time and up till the new *aus* crop comes to the field?

Mr. SPEAKER: That is a separate question altogether.

Mr. CHARU CHANDRA ROY: Will the Hon'ble Minister be pleased to state whether he is aware that when the *aman* crop came to the market it was selling at Rs. 3 per maund and jute was selling at Rs. 5 per maund and hence this distress began when the new crop came to the field?

Mr. SPEAKER: He has already answered that, namely, that he is watching the situation.

Mr. NIHARENDU DUTTA MAZUMDAR: Will the Hon'ble Minister be pleased to state precisely by what means the percentage of failure is determined by Government—whether they were 40 per cent. or whether they were more or less?

The Hon'ble Sir BIJOY PRASAD SINGH ROY: The means of ascertaining these figures is well known to my honourable friend. As I have stated, the Additional Collector made extensive tours in this area. I am sure he met the agriculturists, talked to the people, actually saw the fields and saw the stacks of paddy. From that he made the calculation.

UNSTARRED QUESTIONS

(to which answers were laid on the table)

Abolition of lower primary schools in Midnapore district.

56. Mr. KRISHNA PRASAD MONDAL: (*a*) Will the Hon'ble Minister in charge of the Education Department be pleased to state whether it is a fact that the District Inspector of Schools of Midnapore has proposed the abolition of lower primary schools in the district?

(*b*) If the answer to (*a*) is in the affirmative, will the Hon'ble Minister be pleased to state—

(*i*) whether the Midnapore District Board has agreed to the proposal; and

(*ii*) whether the District Board has made any representation to the Director of Public Instruction on the matter?

(*c*) If the answer to (*b*) (*ii*) is in the affirmative, will the Hon'ble Minister be pleased to state what action the Government have taken on it?

(*d*) When the proposed abolition of lower primary schools in the district is likely to take place?

MINISTER in charge of the EDUCATION DEPARTMENT (the Hon'ble Mr. A. K. Fazlul Huq): (*a*) Yes; but at the same time he proposed to increase the number of upper primary or complete (4 class) primary schools by amalgamation and raising the status of some lower primary schools.

(*b*) (*i*) No.

(*ii*) Yes.

(*c*) The District Board have been informed that a suitable number of lower primary or incomplete primary schools (with less than 4 classes in each) may be allowed to continue as such and that these institutions are to be provisionally recognised and aided by the Board during the period of transition only.

(*d*) As soon as it is possible to have a sufficient number of full fledged (4 class) primary schools.

Prayer time for Muslim students in colleges.

57. Rai HARENDRA NATH CHAUDHURI: (*a*) Will the Hon'ble Minister in charge of the Education Department be pleased to state whether it is a fact—

(*i*) that the Education Department of the Government of Bengal has issued instructions to the Principals and heads of all Government and aided colleges in Bengal that an interval of half-an-hour should be set apart every afternoon for the daily prayer of the Muslim students of the institutions; and

(*ii*) that these institutions are of non-denominational character and were established to impart secular education only?

(*b*) If the answer to (*a*) (*ii*) is in the negative, will the Hon'ble Minister be pleased to state how many of them were established or are run with the other objects in view?

(*c*) Is the Hon'ble Minister aware—

(*i*) that the majority of students of most of these institutions are Hindus;

(*ii*) that in many of these institutions courses of study are left unfinished before dissolving the classes for University examinations; and

(*iii*) that in many colleges the authorities find it difficult to make class routine in such a manner as to allow boys even tiffin time or close class work even by 4 p.m.?

(*d*) Is the Hon'ble Minister considering the desirability of enquiring about the effect of such a new order on non-Muslim students?

The Hon'ble Mr. A. K. FAZLUL HUQ: (*a*) Yes.

(*b*) Does not arise.

(*c*) (*i*) Yes.

(*ii*) I have no such information.

(*iii*) Seventeen colleges already used to allow 15 to 50 minutes mid-day recess and this was utilised by Muslim students for saying their *Zuhar* Prayer without inconvenience to non-Muslim students.

(*d*) I do not see the necessity of doing so.

Rai HARENDRA NATH CHAUDHURI: With reference to answer (*c*) (*ii*), will the Hon'ble Minister be pleased to state if he considers it desirable to make an enquiry to find out whether it is a fact that in many colleges courses are left unfinished for want of time?

The Hon'ble Mr. A. K. FAZLUL HUQ: I do not think it is necessary because if half an hour is given as recess for *Zuhar* prayer——

Rai HARENDRA NATH CHAUDHURI: Sir, the Hon'ble Minister has not followed my question. My question relates to (*c*) (*ii*) in answer to which he has said—"I have no such information." So, will the Hon'ble Minister be pleased to make an enquiry into the matter?

The Hon'ble Mr. A. K. FAZLUL HUQ: I can make an enquiry and also into the causes.

Rai HARENDRA NATH CHAUDHURI: With reference to answer (*c*) (*iii*), will the Hon'ble Minister be pleased to state whether the Presidency College, Calcutta, is one of the 17 colleges mentioned there?

The Hon'ble Mr. A. K. FAZLUL HUQ: As a matter of fact, these 17 colleges which already enjoy recess are situated in the mufassal. But the Presidency College authorities also have arranged to allow a small recess to give the students time for tiffin and that time is utilised by Muslim students for their prayer.

Rai HARENDRA NATH CHAUDHURI: Will the Hon'ble Minister be pleased to state whether it is a fact or not that in the Presidency College during the last two years no recess was given to the students of the I.Sc. Class for tiffin?

The Hon'ble Mr. A. K. FAZLUL HUQ: That is true. As I was submitting to the House, if any recess is given, that can be made up by early or late attendance—15 minutes earlier or later. So, there is no disturbance.

Rai HARENDRA NATH CHAUDHURI: If that be a fact, will the Hon'ble Minister be pleased to consider the desirability of making an enquiry, with reference to the answer given to (*c*) (*iii*), to find out whether it will cause any inconvenience to students belonging to the other communities or not?

The Hon'ble Mr. A. K. FAZLUL HUQ: I do not think it necessary. I had been in college, and I can say that 15 minutes' early or late attendance cannot inconvenience anybody.

Mr. SASANKA SEKHAR SANYAL: Will the Hon'ble Minister be pleased to state whether, in this matter of half an hour recess, Government consulted the opinion and views of the college authorities as to what effect this recess would produce on the academic activities of the students in general?

The Hon'ble Mr. A. K. FAZLUL HUQ: These are matters for the educational authorities to decide, that is, the Principals of colleges. It has nothing to do with the guardians.

Rai HARENDRA NATH CHAUDHURI: Are these matters to be decided by the authorities without any reference to the college authorities?

Mr. SPEAKER: The Hon'ble Minister has already said that it has nothing to do with guardians.

Rai HARENDRA NATH CHAUDHURI: On a point of order, Sir. The question was to the effect whether there would be any inconvenience to other students, whether that matter was enquired into and whether the college authorities were given any opportunity to express an opinion or not on this matter.

Mr. SPEAKER: He has not answered that.

Rai HARENDRA NATH CHAUDHURI: Sir, let us have the answer.

The Hon'ble Mr. A. K. FAZLUL HUQ: The college authorities were not consulted, and I do not think they need be consulted, because if the Government desire that half an hour should be set apart, that can be adjusted by the heads of the institutions.

Mr. NIHARENDU DUTTA MAZUMDAR: With reference to answer (*a*), will the Hon'ble Minister be pleased to state whether Government are contemplating the desirability of exempting some of the colleges from having to allow any recess so that work might go on without any interference by the observance of any denominational religion?

The Hon'ble Mr. A. K. FAZLUL HUQ: Hitherto only one college has raised an objection; other colleges have not.

Rai HARENDRA NATH CHAUDHURI: You have not given them an opportunity.

The Hon'ble Mr. A. K. FAZLUL HUQ: If the other colleges do raise an objection, I am prepared to discuss the matter with them in order to arrive at a solution which will be satisfactory to everyone.

Extension of the Calcutta Improvement Act to the town of Howrah.

58. **Mr. ISWAR DAS JALAN:** (*a*) Will the Hon'ble Minister in charge of the Public Health and Local Self-Government Department be pleased to state whether he is aware—

(*i*) that since 1922 several conferences were called by the successive Ministers of the Local Self-Government Department for necessary legislation for introducing Improvement Trust operation in Howrah; and

(*ii*) that the last of such conferences was held at Darjeeling in September, 1939?

(*b*) If the answer to (*a*) (*ii*) is in the affirmative, will the Hon'ble Minister be pleased to state whether any agreement was arrived at the said conference?

(*c*) If so, will the Hon'ble Minister be pleased to lay on the table a copy of such agreement?

(*d*) What steps, if any, has the Hon'ble Minister taken to implement such agreement?

(*e*) Will the Hon'ble Minister be pleased to state whether it is in the contemplation of Government to introduce a legislation in this connection?

(*f*) If so, when?

The Hon'ble Nawab Khwaja HABIBULLAH Bahadur, of Dacca: (*a*) (*i*) Five conferences were held to consider the question of improvement of the town of Howrah through the agency of an Improvement Trust.

(*ii*) Yes.

(*b*) and (*c*) The conference expressed its views on certain proposals tentatively put forward by Government, but no formal agreement was drawn up.

(*d*) Copies of the proceedings of the conference were forwarded to the Board of Trustees for the Improvement of Calcutta and the commissioners of the Howrah Municipality for their views and after considering the views of the conference as well as of these bodies, Government

have formulated their proposals about the financial and administrative arrangements to be made for the improvement of the town of Howrah.

(*e*) Yes.

(*f*) Steps are being taken to deal with the matter as expeditiously as possible.

Mr. ATUL KRISHNA GHOSE: With reference to (*f*), will the Hon'ble Minister be pleased to state what steps are being taken?

The Hon'ble Nawab Khwaja HABIBULLAH Bahadur, of Dacca: Legislation is being got ready, and it will be very soon brought before the House.

Mr. ATUL KRISHNA GHOSE: Will the Hon'ble Minister be pleased to state whether any Bill will be brought forward during this session?

The Hon'ble Nawab Khwaja HABIBULLAH Bahadur, of Dacca: No, not in this session.

Mr. ATUL KRISHNA GHOSE: Will the Hon'ble Minister be pleased to state when the Bill will be forthcoming?

The Hon'ble Nawab Khwaja HABIBULLAH Bahadur, of Dacca: I hope by the next session.

STARRED QUESTION

(to which oral answer was given)

Pecuniary jurisdiction of Munsiff.

*150. **Mr. SURENDRANATH BISWAS:** (*a*) Will the Hon'ble Minister in charge of the Judicial Department be pleased to state—

(*i*) whether the Civil Justice Committee recommended that the ordinary pecuniary jurisdiction of the Munsiffs should be raised from Rs.1,000 to Rs.2,000; and

(*ii*) whether the said recommendation has been given effect to?

(*b*) If the answer to question (*a*) (*ii*) is in the affirmative, will the Hon'ble Minister be pleased to state whether the pecuniary jurisdiction of the Munsiffs at Rajbari in the Goalundo subdivision of the district of Faridpur has been so raised?

(*c*) If not, why not?

MINISTER in charge of the JUDICIAL DEPARTMENT (the Hon'ble Nawab Musharruff Hossain, Khan Bahadur): (*a*) (*i*) The Civil Justice Committee recommended that the *legal maximum* of the pecuniary jurisdiction should be raised to Rs. 5,000, but it did not recommend that the ordinary pecuniary jurisdiction of the Munsiffs should be raised from Rs. 1,000 to Rs. 2,000.

(*ii*) The recommendation has been partially implemented by raising the maximum up to Rs.3,500.

(*b*) and (*c*) Do not arise.

Mr. SURENDRA NATH BISWAS: Will the Hon'ble Minister be pleased to state what is the maximum amount of pecuniary jurisdiction of the munsif at Rajbari?

The Hon'ble Nawab MUSHARRUFF HOSSAIN, Khan Bahadur: Rs. 1,000.

Mr. SURENDRA NATH BISWAS: Will the Hon'ble Minister be pleased to state whether Government have considered the desirability of raising the pecuniary jurisdiction to an amount of more than Rs. 1,000, as indicated in the recommendation?

The Honb'le Nawab MUSHARRUFF HOSSAIN, Khan Bahadur: No case has yet been made out to increase the amount.

Mr. SURENDRA NATH BISWAS: Will the Hon'ble Minister be pleased to state who is to make out a case?

Mr. SPEAKER: That is a matter for the Government to decide.

Mr. SURENDRA NATH BISWAS: Or the High Court?

Mr. SPEAKER: I don't know.

The Hon'ble Nawab MUSHARRUFF HOSSAIN, Khan Bahadur: It has to be done by the High Court, but at the same time there must be popular demand. I can say that the people of the locality are poor and Rs. 1,000 is considered to be quite enough for a place of that kind.

Mr. SURENDRA NATH BISWAS: Will the Hon'ble Minister be pleased to state whether he is aware that there is a grievance amongst the lawyers and litigants within the subdivision of Rajbari?

Mr. SPEAKER: I think this is a contradictory statement—lawyers and litigants are said to be against each other.

Mr. SURENDRA NATH BISWAS: It is in the interest of the litigants that the amount of pecuniary jurisdiction should be increased. The litigants of the locality find it difficult to go to the district headquarters and pay higher fees to the lawyers there. Will the Hon'ble Minister be pleased to state whether he is aware that is a grievance amongst the litigants as well as the lawyers there?

Mr. SPEAKER: Rajbari is only a few miles away from Faridpur.

Mr. SURENDRA NATH BISWAS: But there are other troubles, otherwise why should there be a subdivision at Rajbari?

Mr. SPEAKER: The Hon'ble Mr. Tamizuddin Khan is looking at you.

Mr. SURENDRA NATH BISWAS: He has become a Minister and so it does not matter to him. Had he been a lawyer he certainly would have fought for raising the pecuniary jurisdiction. I do not know——

Mr. SPEAKER: Anyway, please do not argue.

Mr. SURENDRA NATH BISWAS: Will the Hon'ble Minister be pleased to consider the desirability of raising the pecuniary jurisdiction of the munsif at Rajbari?

The Hon'ble Nawab MUSHARRUFF HOSSAIN, Khan Bahadur: I have told you already that there has been no demand from the public and nothing is done to satisfy the demands of the pleaders. Everything is done for the good of the people, and if the people would like to have it, they will have it. But as no demand has come as yet from the public, the question has not been considered.

Supplementary Question and Answer to Question No. *149 of Mr. Sasanka Sekhar Sanyal.

Mr. SASANKA SEKHAR SANYAL: Will the Hon'ble Minister be pleased to state what steps were taken by the Government after the Chairman addressed the letter, dated the 30th November, to the Public Health Department of the Government of Bengal?

The Hon'ble Nawab Khwaja HABIBULLAH Bahadur, of Dacca: Government took all steps as soon as they came to learn that help was required.

DEMAND FOR GRANT.

40—Agriculture.

Maulvi JONAB ALI MAZUMDAR: Mr. Speaker, Sir, I beg to move that the demand of Rs. 43,85,000 for expenditure under the head "40 Agriculture" be reduced by Rs. 100.

মাননীয় Speaker মহোদয়, যে সকল পাটচাষীর পাটের জমিনের মোট পরিমাণ এক একর অর্থাৎ একশত ডেসিমেল্ অপেক্ষাও কম, তাহাদিগকে বর্ত্তমান Jute Regulation Act এর আমল হইতে রেহাই দেবার জন্য আমি এই cut motion উত্থাপন করিতেছি।

পাটচাষ নিয়ন্ত্রনের মূলনীতি সম্পর্কে গভর্ণমেণ্টের সহিত আমাদের কৃষক-প্রজা পার্টির কোন রকম মতভেদ নাই, ইহা আমি পরিস্কার ভাবে জানাইয়া দিতে চাই। পাট চাষ মোটের উপর কমান হউক ইহা আমরা চাই, কিন্তু পাটের চাষ কমানর সঙ্গে সঙ্গে পাটের মূল্য বৃদ্ধি সম্পর্কে গভর্ণমেণ্ট কি পাকাপাকি ব্যবস্থা অবলম্বন করতে চান তৎসম্পর্কে গভর্ণমেণ্টের তরফ হইতে একটি সুনির্দ্দিষ্ট পরিকল্পনা ও জানতে চাই। পাটচাষ হইতে আরম্ভ করে পাটের বাজার এবং বিক্রী-কেনা সমুদয় স্তর কোন প্রকার আইন প্রনয়ণ-দ্বারা নিয়ন্ত্রণ করা না হ'লে শুধু আইনের দ্বারা পাট চাষ নিয়ন্ত্রণ এবং দরবৃদ্ধি সম্পর্কে আইনের পরিবর্ত্তে ইউরোপিয়ণ মিলমালিকগণের সদিচ্ছার উপর নির্ভর করার মত অতিরিক্ত বিশ্বাস আমাদের নাই। যাহা হউক আমি আমার বর্ত্তমান প্রস্তাব সম্পর্কেই আমার বক্তব্য সীমাবদ্ধ করবো।

বাংলা গভর্ণমেণ্ট পাটচাষীর পাটের জমি ইতিমধ্যেই একে একে দুইবার পরিমাপ কোরেছেন। প্রথম ১৯৩৯ ইং সনের পরিমাপে সরকারী তহবিল হইতে প্রায় ৭ লক্ষ টাকা খরচ কোরে ভুলভ্রান্তি জনিত দোষ ত্রুটির জন্য উহা পরিত্যক্ত হয়। দ্বিতীয় বার ১৯40 ইং সনের রেকর্ডেও যথেষ্ট ভুলভ্রান্তি রহিয়া গিয়াছে ইহা মাননীয় কৃষিমন্ত্রী সাহেব

নিশ্চয়ই স্বীকার কোরবেন। কিন্তু এই রেকর্ডকে ভিত্তি কোরে বর্ত্তমান বৎসর পাট চাষীগণকে তাহাদের নিজ নামে recorded পাটের জমির উপর ১।৩ অংশ জমিতে পাট চাষ করিতে দেওয়া হবে Government ইহা সাব্যস্ত কোরেছেন এবং অমান্যকারীকে জেল ভোগ বা জরিমানা দিতে হবে সরকারী এই আদেশ জারির পর উক্ত রেকর্ড, সরকারী আদেশ এবং আইন প্রয়োগনীতির সংশোধনের জন্য বাংলার পাট চাষিগণের মধ্যে যে তুমুল আন্দোলন আরম্ভ হয়েছে উহার বাস্তবিক যুক্তিসঙ্গত কোন কারণ আছে কিনা গভর্ণমেণ্টের তাহা অনুসন্ধান করা কর্ত্তব্য। যে হেতু কৃষক প্রজা পার্টির মেম্বারগণ কৃষক জনসাধারণের সত্যিকারের প্রতিনিধি হিসাবে তাহাদের ন্যায্য অভাব অভিযোগ সমূহ ব্যক্ত করে তজ্জন্য তাহাদের উপর খাপ্পা হওয়া এবং তাহাদিগকে জব্দ করার চেষ্টা করা গভর্ণমেণ্টের পক্ষে ঔদ্ধত্য ছাড়া আর কিছুই নয়। আমি ইহা বিশ্বাস করতে রাজী নই যে মাননীয় কৃষি মন্ত্রী মহোদয় বর্ত্তমান বৎসর পাটের জমি recordingএ ভুল হোয়েছে ইহা জানেন না, অথবা আইনের ৩(২) ধারামত পাটের জমি ঠিকমত record না হওয়ায় অনেক চাষীর পাটের জমি বর্ত্তমান বৎসর অনাবাদ থাকিবে ইহাও জানেন না, এবং ইহাও উপলব্ধি করেন না যে গরীব পাটচাষী যাহার মোট পাটের জমি ১০।১৫।২০ শতাংশ তাহার উপর ও অন্যান্যের ন্যায় গড়ে সরকারী ১।৩ অংশ চাষের আদেশ বলবৎ করা একটা জুলুম। যদি তিনি জানেন বা উপলব্ধি করেন, তবে যাহাদের উপর অবিচার হোয়েছে তাহাদের কি প্রতিকারের জন্য আবেদন নিবেদন ও কোন প্রকার আন্দোলন অন্যায়?

আমি এখন সকল চাষীর উপরই ১।৩ অংশ পাট চাষের সরকারী যে আদেশ উহার অযৌক্তিকতা সম্পর্কে আলোচনা করবো। আমি সরকারী এই আদেশ জারিকে সম্পূর্ণ অযৌক্তিক ও অন্যায় এবং অবিচার মূলক আখ্যা দিতে চাই। বাংলার মন্ত্রীসভা সমুদয় পাট চাষীগণকে তাদের নামে recorded পাটের জমির পরিমাণ কম বেশী কোন প্রকার বিবেচনার মধ্যে না এনে প্রত্যেককেই নিজ নামে recorded পাটের জমির এক তৃতীয়াংশ জমিতে বর্ত্তমান বৎসরে পাট চাষ করবার আদেশ জারি করেছেন। কোন প্রকার তারতম্য না করে সব শ্রেণীর চাষীর জন্য গড়ে এই প্রকারের আদেশ প্রয়োগ নীতি অবিবেচনা প্রসূত। আজ বাংলা দেশে সরকারী পাট নীতি সম্পর্কে যে আন্দোলন দেখা দিয়েছে অপেক্ষাকৃত গরীব শ্রেণীর পাট চাষীগণের উক্ত সরকারী আদেশের বিরুদ্ধে বিক্ষোভই ইহার অন্যতম প্রধান কারণ। Government হয়ত ইহার কৈফিয়ৎ স্বরূপ বলতে পারেন আমরা Jute Advisory Board এর পরামর্শ মতই পাট চাষের বর্ত্তমান বৎসরের নিয়ন্ত্রণ সম্পর্কে উপরোক্ত আদেশ জারি করেছি। কিন্তু এই Advisory Board সরকারী মনোণীত ব্যক্তিগণ নিয়েই গঠিত এবং আইনে যদিও পাট চাষীগণের কয়েকজন প্রতিনিধি উক্ত Advisory Board এ রাখার বিধান আছে, এই প্রতিনিধিগন কে কে আমরা তাহা জানি না, তবে ইহা সত্য যে পাট চাষীগণের সত্যিকার প্রতিনিধি কৃষক প্রজা পার্টির কোন member উক্ত Jute Advisory Boardএ নাই।

আমি প্রথমেই বলেছি যে পাট চাষ অপেক্ষাকৃত কম হউক ইহা আমরা চাই। ১৯৪০ ইং সনে মোট যত জমিতে বাংলা দেশে পাটচাষ বাদ হয়েছে ঐ পরিমাণ জমিণের ১।৩ অংশ জমিতে বর্ত্তমান বৎসর পাট চাষ হউক; ইহা যদি Government এর সুবিবেচিত অভিমত হয় আমরা তাহাও সমর্থন করিতে প্রস্তুত আছি। কিন্তু এই আদেশ সব শ্রেণীর পাট চাষীর উপর একই ভাবে প্রযুক্ত হইতে পাবে না এবং হওয়া উচিৎ ও হবে না। যে কোন একটি যুক্তি সঙ্গত নির্দ্দিষ্ট সর্ব্ব নিম্ন পরিমাণ পাটের জমি এবং উহার চাষীগণকে Jute Regulation Act এর আমল হইতে আমার মতে একেবারেই বাদ দেওয়া উচিৎ। এই সম্পর্কে অপেক্ষাকৃত গরীব পাট চাষী শ্রেণীকে যাদের মোট পাটের জমি এক acre অপেক্ষাও কম বর্ত্তমান সরকারী আমলের গতি হইতে বাদ দেওয়ার আমি পক্ষপাতি। কারণ বাংলাদেশের পাট প্রধান অঞ্চল সমূহে এই শ্রেণীর পাট চাষীর মধ্যে কোর্ফা রায়ৎ ও দরকোর্ফা রায়ৎ শতকরা ৮০ জন। আবার কোর্ফা রায়ৎ ও দরকোর্ফা রায়ৎগণের মধ্যে শতকরা ৫০ জনেরই মোট জমি ১০ হইতে ৫০ শতাংশের অধিক নহে এবং বাকি পঞ্চাশ জনের মোট জমি ৫০ শতাংশ হইতে এক acre এর কম; এই সকল চাষী রায়ৎগণ বসত ভিটা ছাড়া, ভিটা বাড়ির উপরে আশে পাশে গড় খুনিত নিয়া যে সামান্য জমি পায় উহাতে পাট চাষ করে থাকে। অন্য কোন ফসল জন্মানো সুবিধাজনক হয় না। এই সকল কোর্ফা ও দরকোর্ফা রায়ৎ গণের খাজনার নিরিখ সাধারণতঃ অতি উচ্চ। এই সকল বসত ভিটা ও টুকরা নাল জমি খণ্ডের খাজনার নিরিখ হিসাব করলে দেখা যায় এক acre প্রতি স্থল বিশেষে কুড়ি টাকা হইতে ত্রিশ টাকার অধিক খাজনা। প্রস্তাবিত আইনের বলে এই শ্রেণীর রায়তের খাজনার নিরিখ ফসলের মূল্য বৃদ্ধি ইত্যাদির ওজুহাত দিয়া বৎসরের পর বৎসর বাড়োনো হইয়া আসিতেছে, অন্যথায় ৪৮ 'গ' ধারা মত উচ্ছেদ অনিবার্য্য। অনন্যোপায় হইয়া বসত ভিটার মমতায় এই শ্রেণীর নিরীহ রায়ৎগণ অতি কষ্টে তথাকথিত মনিবের খাজনা পরিশোধ করে ও নিজের ভিটা মাটিটুকু আঁকড়ে ধরে থাকে। ভিটে বাদ যে সামান্য গড় খুনিত জঙ্গল আশেপাশে থাকে বা টুকরা জমি থাকে ঐ সকল পাটের জমিতে পরিণত করে তারা পাট ফসল করে থাকে। এই শ্রেণীর রায়ৎগণ এই সামান্য পাট-বিক্রী লব্ধ টাকার দ্বারা সাধারণতঃ খাজনা দেয়, এবং উচ্ছেদ হতে আত্মরক্ষা করে। পাট হতে যে খড়ি হয় তদ্বারা বাস করবার ঘর বাঁধে এবং রান্নার জন্য জ্বালানি কাঠের যোগাড় করে। এই শ্রেণীর রায়ৎ গণের জমা জমি কম হলেও যে কোন স্বচ্ছল পরিবারের লোক সংখ্যা হতে তাহদের পরিবারের লোক সংখ্যা কম থাকে না। তাহাদের সক্ষম লোকগণ সারাদিন দিন মজুরী করে পরিবারের দৈনন্দিন ভরণ পোষণ অতি কষ্টে যোগাড় করে। পল্লী-গ্রামের এই শ্রেণীর গরীব লোকগণের দুরবস্থা সহর বাসীগণের সাধারণতঃ বুঝা কঠিণ। পল্লীগ্রামে যাহারা বসবাস করেন এবং এই শ্রেণীর গরীব নিরীহ লোকজনের অবস্থা সহৃদয়তার সহিত বুঝিতে চেষ্টা করেন তাঁহারা আমার উক্তি নিশ্চয়ই সমর্থন করবেন।

কাজেই এই শ্রেণীর যে পাট চাষী যাহাদের মোট জমি জমাই পাটের জমি এবং যাহার পরিমাণ স্থলবিশেষে ১০।২০।৫০ কি একশত decimal এর ও কম যাহাদের ভরণ পোষণের একমাত্র সম্বল নিজেদের দিন মজুরীর লব্ধ পয়সা, খাজানা দেওয়ার

সম্বল সামান্য এক কালীন পাট লব্ধ টাকা, জ্বালাণী কাঠ ও ঘর বাঁধার জন্য উক্ত পাট খড়িই এক মাত্র সম্বল, তাহাদের উপরও অন্যান্য বড় বড় পাট চাষীগণের ন্যায় এক তৃতীয়াংশ পাট চাষ করার সরকারী আদেশ বলবৎ ও প্রয়োগ করলে কি প্রকার জুলুম হবে তাহা অনুধাবন করিতে আমি মাননীয় মন্ত্রী মহোদয়কে অনুরোধ করিতেছি। পাট চাষ নিয়ন্ত্রণের জন্য একই প্রকারের সরকারী আদেশ এই সকল গরীব চাষীগণের উপর নির্ব্বিচারে প্রয়োগ করা হলে তাহারা যে সামান্য পরিমাণ পাট জন্মাইতো তাহা কমিয়া স্থল বিশেষে হয়ত কোন কোন চাষীর কয়েক সেরে নামিয়া আসবে; কেবল তাই নয় অনেক স্থলে ঐ সকল সামান্য টুকরা জমিতে পাটের ন্যায় তাদের নিকট প্রয়োজনীয় ও লাভজনক অন্য কোন ফসলই জন্মানো সম্ভব হবে না। হয়ত জমিরঅবস্থা ভেদে এই শ্রেণীর চাষীর কোন ২ জমি অনাবাদেই ফেলে রাখতে হবে। Governmentএর বোঝা উচিৎ বাংলা দেশের চাষীগণের শতকরা ৯০ জনই দেনা গ্রস্ত; আবার এরমধ্যে শতকরা ৫০ জন লোককে পেটের ভাত, পিঠের কাপড়, বছর বছর খাজনা ও দেনার কিস্তির টাকা দেওয়ার জন্য দিন রাত লড়াই করতে হয়। বর্ত্তমানে আমাদের বাংল দেশে যে ভাবে বড় লোক নিয়ে মন্ত্রী সভা গঠিত, হয়ত তাঁদের পক্ষে যা অতি তুচ্ছ ও সাধারণ ব্যাপার বলে মনে হয় গরীব শ্রেণীর চাষীগণের পক্ষে উহা তাদের জীবন মরণ সমস্যা হয়ে দাড়ায়। Government এর উচিৎ সৎ উদ্দেশ্য নিয়ে কোন কাজ করতে গেলে ও উহার শেষ ফল যতই ভাল না কেন মনে করা হউক, প্রথমতঃ যাদের হিতের জন্য উহা করা হয় উহা তাদের নিকট সহনীয় কিনা বিবেচনা করা। রোগীর জীবনী-শক্তির তারতম্য অনুসারে ও ঔষুধের মাত্রা কম বেশী না করলে অপেক্ষাকৃত দুর্ব্বল রোগীর মৃত্যু অধিকতর আসন্ন হবার আশঙ্কা থাকে। ফলে হিতে বিপরীত হয়। কাজেই কৃষি মন্ত্রী মাননীয় মৌলভি তমিজুদ্দিন খান সাহেবকে আমি অনুরোধ করবো মরনোন্মুখ বাংলার চাষীদলের স্বার্থ জড়িত কোন ব্যাপারে গড়ে সরকারী কোন হুকুম জারির পূর্ব্বে বিভিন্ন দিক্ ও দৃষ্টি কোণ হতে বিভিন্ন স্তর ও শ্রেণীর চাষীর, তদ্বারা সুবিধা অসুবিধার কথা যেন বিবেচনায় আনা হয় এবং তৎপর উহা জারি ও বলবৎ করা হয়। কিন্তু বাংলার Government পাট চাষ নিয়ন্ত্রণ সম্পর্কে যে ১।৩ অংশ চাষের হুকুম বর্ত্তমানে জারি করেছেন, তদ্বারা উপরোক্ত শ্রেণীর রায়তগণের কথা, এবং অন্যান্য যাহারা সামান্য মাত্র জমিতে পাট চাষ করে তাহাদের অসুবিধার কথা বিবেচনা ও উপলব্ধি না করায় Government এর দূরদৃষ্টি ও বিচক্ষণতার অভাবই সূচিত হয়েছে। Government এর উচিৎ যে সকল চাষীর পাটের জমি এক acre হতে কম recorded হয়েছে তাহাদিগকে Jute Regulation Act এর আমল হতে রেহাই দেবার জন্য অবিলম্বে ঘোষণা করা। আর যে সকল চাষীর এক acre হতে তদধিক, কিন্তু তিন acre পর্য্যন্ত পাটের জমি আছে তাদের সকলকেই Jute Ragulation Act এর আমলে এনে মাত্র এক acre পর্য্যন্ত পাট চাষ করবার সুযোগ দেওয়া, যে সকল চাষীর তিন acre এর অধিক পাটের জমি আছে তাদের উপর ১।৩ অংশ পাট চাষের, সরকারী হুকুম বলবৎ করা। এ ছাড়া যে সকল বড় বড় জোতদার চাষীর শত শত acre পাটের জমি আছে তাহাগিকে ১।৩ অংশ অপেক্ষাও কম একটা নির্দ্দিষ্ট যুক্তি সঙ্গত পরিমাণ

জমিতে পাট চাষ করবার অনুমতি দিয়ে সীমাবদ্ধ করে দেওয়া। আমার এই প্রস্তাব মত Government পাটচাষীগণকে উপরোক্ত তিন শ্রেণীতে বিভক্ত করে কাজ করতে প্রস্তুত হ'লে এতে সকল শ্রেণীর চাষীর উপরই সুবিচার হবে এবং Government এর ইচ্ছানুযায়ী পাট চাষ নিয়ন্ত্রিত হয়ে মোটের উপর বাংলাদেশে ১।৩ অংশ অপেক্ষা বেশী পাট চাষ হবে না। তদ্বারা Government এর উদ্দেশ্যও সফল হবে। নীতির দিক্ দিয়ে আলোচনা করতে গেলে ও আমাদের যতদূর সম্ভব সকলকেই ধণী, নির্ধনী নির্বিশেষে প্রয়োজনের মাপ কাঠির দ্বারাই সমতা রক্ষা করতে চেষ্টা করা উচিৎ। যে চাষীর পাটের জমি প্রয়োজনের অতিরিক্ত কেবল তারই অতিরিক্ত পাট চাষ সীমাবদ্ধ বা নিয়ন্ত্রিত হওয়া উচিৎ; যার প্রয়োজন অপেক্ষা মূলেই পাট চাষ কম তাকেও নিয়ন্ত্রনাধীনে আনা যুক্তি সঙ্গত নয়; কারণ সামান্য সামান্য পরিমাণ পাট চাষ নিয়ন্ত্রণ করলে চাষীর ব্যক্তিগত অসুবিধা ও ক্ষতির তুলনায় গোটা বাংলা দেশের পাট চাষ নিয়ন্ত্রণে যে সামান্য কিছু মাত্র সহায়তা করবে উহা অনায়াসেই উপেক্ষার উপযুক্ত।

আশা করি মাননীয় কৃষি মন্ত্রী সাহেব আমার প্রস্তাবটি খোলা মনে ধীর স্থির ভাবে বিবেচনা করবেন এবং যে সকল গরীব চাষীর সামান্য সামান্য পাটের জমি আছে তাদিগকে অন্ততঃ ১।৩ অংশ পাট চাষের সরকারী আদেশ হইতে রেহাই দেবার ব্যবস্থা করবেন।

The Hon'ble Mr. TAMIZUDDIN KHAN: Mr. Speaker, Sir, the motion is to this effect, that jute-growers whose lands are below one acre should be exempted from the operation of the Jute Regulation Act. That is the limited purpose of this motion, but my honourable friend has traversed the entire field with regard to Jute Regulation in the course of his speech on this motion. I would like to confine myself to the central idea in this cut motion. I would oppose this motion on two grounds.

First of all, Sir, the exemption cannot be made under the present Jute Regulation Act. If any minimum like this has to be fixed, the Jute Regulation Act has to be amended to that effect. When the Jute Regulation Act was discussed on the floor of this House, my honourable friend did not throw out any suggestion like this. Now the Act being there, it is impracticable to give effect to such a suggestion. If my friend gives a little thought to this subject, he will himself see that a proposition like this is also altogether unpracticable. Probably he does not know what is the size of the average holding of a jute-grower. He is casting his eyes to the few big jute-growers with 100 or 200 *bighas* of land in their possession, but the average size of a jute-grower's holding is even less than one-fourth of an acre. Therefore, if those whose holdings are of the size of one acre are exempted, does my friend consider what effect that will have on the policy of jute regulation? Without calculating as to what total area of land will be covered by holdings whose area is one acre or less——

Mr. SPEAKER: Mr. Tamizuddin Khan, can you do it under the Jute Regulation Act?

The Hon'ble Mr. TAMIZUDDIN KHAN: I have already said that I cannot.

Mr. CHARU CHANDRA ROY: Mr. Speaker, it is not holding of one acre of land, but jute lands of one acre and not other lands.

The Hon'ble Mr. TAMIZUDDIN KHAN: My friend Mr. Roy is mistaken.

Mr. SPEAKER: If this is against the Act, how the motion can arise?

Mr. CHARU CHANDRA ROY: This motion has been brought with a view to suggesting to the Hon'ble Minister to bring an amendment to this effect.

Mr. SPEAKER: I do not think that any member is entitled to do that. In a budget cut motion it is a well-known convention that where there is an established law, you cannot bring in a motion to censure the Government for not doing a thing.

Mr. CHARU CHANDRA ROY: It is the intention of the cultivators that such law ought to be amended.

Mr. SPEAKER: That is another matter. My point is that there is an existing law. This motion is in the nature of a censure motion. How can you censure Government for an Act which is already existing and which has been passed by this Legislature?

Mr. NIHARENDU DUTTA MAZUMDAR: In a cut motion attention of the Government is drawn to various points and to various necessities that arise. How can you, Sir, interpret a cut motion which is in the nature of giving a suggestion for alteration of a law as a censure on the Government?

Mr. SPEAKER: But how can Government take any step unless the law is changed? It is a well-known principle that in a budget cut motion censure is not permissible where there is an existing Act.

Mr. NIHARENDU DUTTA MAZUMDAR: Sir, the whole intention of this motion is to point out that holders of jute land amounting to about one acre have to grow jute for their own domestic consumption and the hardship that will be imposed on them if they are not allowed to do that.

Mr. SPEAKER: That is not my fault. Suppose you want some changes to be made in the Money-lenders Act. Can Government take any step which is contrary to the Money-lenders Act itself? That cannot be raised in a budget cut motion

Rai HARENDRA NATH CHAUDHURI: On a point of order, Sir. May we not interpret it as a grievance that is pressed on the Government for remedy?

Mr. SPEAKER: It is not a grievance; it is a failure on the part of Government.

Rai HARENDRA NATH CHAUDHURI: He has made the speech just to draw the attention of the Government.

Mr. SPEAKER: I am speaking about the language of the motion. Please refer to the language. It may be interpreted as censure on the whole House.

Mr. SASANKA SEKHAR SANYAL: It may be interpreted as requiring further legislation by way of alteration if necessary.

Mr. SPEAKER: Then you must do it in a separate motion.

Rai HARENDRA NATH CHAUDHURI: Can't we press it for an amendment to the Act?

Mr. SPEAKER: No, it cannot be done in a budget cut motion.

Mr. GIASUDDIN AHMED: Sir, I think the restriction of one-third of jute land is not an Act. It is an order of Government. So, I think we can raise it.

Mr. SPEAKER: Before the motion is put to vote, I will look into it. In the meantime let the Hon'ble Minister proceed with his speech.

The Hon'ble Mr. TAMIZUDDIN KHAN: My friend Mr. Charu Chandra Roy who interjected a little while ago is under the impression that the area, of the entire area of lands, in possession of a jute-grower

is more than one-quarter of an acre. The fact is that the area of jute lands in the possession of the average jute-grower is less than one-quarter of an acre. That being so, if you exempt those who have one acre of jute land in their possession, then you can easily see without going into intricate calculation that the ultimate effect of that will be reduction not by two-thirds as Government propose, but only by a small fraction. It may be a reduction of one-tenth or even less than that. Therefore, from no point of view this suggestion can be accepted.

Sir, I should like to admit that there is a widespread demand from all over the country that a reasonable minimum should be fixed. Therefore, Government will consider the advisability of an amendment of the Act with a view to fix a reasonable minimum. But I can assure the House that nothing like one acre or even one-third of an acre can possibly be fixed as the minimum.

Mr. SASANKA SEKHAR SANYAL: Mr. Speaker, Sir, I beg to move that the demand of Rs. 43,85,000 for expenditure under the head "40—Agriculture" be reduced by Rs. 100.

Sir, when the first budget of the present Government was introduced in the year 1937, the man behind the plough loomed very large, and although the budget presented at that time did not indicate any encouraging departure from the old policy or no policy of drift, credulous people thought that some steps would be taken by way of embarking upon a new venture for helping poor agriculture out of its rut and age-long mud of neglect. But looking back across these four years, can it be claimed to-day that anything has been done by which the agriculture which is the spinal cord of our collective vitality of our nation has recovered from its colossal malnutrition of pre-autonomy days? The answer is plainly in the negative. The emaciated hand of the ploughman can hardly clasp the plough with his diffident grip, the primitive machine has been further loaded by the weight of additional impending taxation and the impoverished livestock, in spite of viceregal bulls, can but little assist him in ploughing a lonely furrow.

The reason is not far to seek. Agriculture remains to-day, as it has ever been before, a mere department of the Writers' Buildings with sprinklings of effete branches here and there at favoured places, and no new blood has been made to flow through the dry bones of the dreary, weary portfolio. Problems have not been realised in their fundamentals and solution has not been conceived in its essentials. Things have been talked airily and with manifest imbecility without any genuine feeling behind them, and the provisions that have been and are being made from year to year are no better than mere crumbs that fall from the table of the all-absorbing department-ridden administration. The Finance

and the exchequer have changed hands and the portfolio has come over from the Nawab to a Minister apparently nearer the peasant, but the destiny of more than 70 per cent. of our people is still lying in the archives of a hide-bound Secretariat. The booklet that has been circulated to us in the name of the working of the department reads more like a scriptural epitaph upon the tomb of agriculture than a live programme for its real uplift. This line of least resistance must be abandoned. The tinkering doles upon mere speculative contingencies must give place to definitely new methods of attacking the problems, and I would advise the Government to co-ordinate the various departments so that this question can be given an attack from the front and immediately and even now.

The problem of agriculture in our country can be described as a problem of several P's—namely, produce, preservation, protection and price.

Coming to the question of produce, Sir, the cultivation in our country has always been superficial all along and that for historical reasons. The proportion of available culturable land in relation to the number of population was formerly very large, and a few leisurely strokes of an unambitious plough induced yield enough to cover the normal needs which by the way were also comparatively few and consolidated. The primitive simplicity of life invariably led to the adoption of only a few standardised crops which were considered enough for the maintenance of men and cattle. But to-day the course of life with its attendant complexities has introduced revolutionary changes and the pressure upon land has increased manifold. Every unit of soil must have to yield considerably more and diversification of crops is an imperative necessity. Intensive cultivation and variety of cropping have been long, long overdue, and unfortunately, not to our credit, no lead has been given in this direction. Extensive ways and means should be forthwith adopted to provide for manuring facilities in the farthest village, and opportunities should be created for the introduction of deep ploughing in the normal alluvial soil of our province. Better qualities of indigenous and foreign seedlings should be made available for every tiller of the soil, and short term crop loans, if necessary, with lien upon the crops, should be ready at every door. The unaided limping peasant cannot be expected to march into new lines of activity, and it is only the State initiative that can break the inertia, or monotony and despair. Things need not wait for any complicated machinery to be set up. If we only knew how to use our district and union boards, we could even to-day make definite beginnings in the matter of building up our agricultural planning. To-day the union boards are functioning as so many battle-grounds of petty vanities, and if we could only convert them into so many arms of an all-round planning, they would be forthwith converted into as many power-houses of nation's beneficent activities. The collective strength

and wisdom of a large number of these boards would be available for assisting the individual efforts of the peasantry in resolving their numerous difficulties.

Then, Sir, comes the question of preservation and protection of crops. Real difficulties begin in our province after the sowing is done. According to an old theological concept men are born only to die, and according to the economic concept of our country crops have to be sown and grown only to be blown away by destruction. The blue book of the department has referred to the insect pest—a veritable plague no doubt and by all means to be combated—but the pestilence of flood and drought, which are the annual harvest in our province, have not been honoured even by a mere mention. Our conservative people have accepted nature's viscissitudes in the name of fate, and our popular Government are fully exploiting this mediæval superstition. Otherwise, you cannot explain the colossal disregard of the Government in the matter of this major problem. The dance of destruction that the onslaught of flood brings upon the golden crops on the eve of their harvesting can be easily avoided by the opening up of shallow temporary channels for diverting the overflow of water and the small mischief that this passage would cause to some section of the people can be more than compensated by a quota out of the vast savings made. In the matter of drought also, a large number of tube-wells can be sunk over the affected areas and with the aid of powerful pumps and long and extended delivery hose pipes a hard and untractable soil and even a desert can be inundated. There would be no difficulty in getting the costs of these tube-wells met out of the large saving so made. I also think—and I should say, rather vaguely—of a crop insurance scheme so that the destroyed crop might be followed by some compensation from the State. I would be very glad if Government would consult exeprts in this matter.

Then, Sir, comes the most important question, viz., the question relating to the price. Agriculture to-day is as much unremunerative as it was before, and the first remedial measure lies in the introduction of a few money crops and in the conversion of the standing crops—at least some of them—into money crops. Jute, sugarcane and cotton have long been claiming our attention, and I would also add a few others—table fruits, spices, nuts and tobacco for fine cigarettes.

Mr. Speaker, Sir, as a man coming from Murshidabad, I wonder why the vast output of mangoes in my district and in the neighbouring districts including Malda could not be stored and preserved throughout the year, because if that could be done, those mangoes would be the principal money-earning avenues so far as this province is concerned. We would find our market not only in Calcutta, not only in other parts of India, but also outside this country. There are allied industries—agriculture industry in the shapes of jellies, condiments and the like—which a little initiative on the part of Government can bring into

existence even to-day. My friend Mr. Abu Hossain Sarkar, while discussing the budget cuts in the last year, pointedly drew the attention of the Government to the possibilities and prospects of cigarettes industry in our province, but I am sorry this book does not contain even any mention of the same. Through every union board, if possible, with the aid of a radio, instructive lessons should be broadcast throughout the province at periodic intervals so that the peasantry may be persuaded to concentrate as much upon money crops as upon food grains. Communication works should be whipped up so that money crops that are grown may find an easy way into the market. The marketing facilities should be implemented by the starting of comfortable godown and warehousing schemes and the holding power and the buying capacity of the agriculturists must be augmented by all means. Sir, the Hon'ble Minister the day before yesterday referred several times to the laws of demand and supply I for myself must not agree to being thrown at the mercy of these economic laws of demand and supply. They are neither laws of nature nor are they immutable. Even private efforts in the commercial world are known to have been able to modify and bring under control these inflexible laws of economics, and I fail to understand why the powerful initiative of an organised Government cannot determine such forces at least to some extent. If there is just a will, there is certainly a way

I would conclude, Sir, by asking for a comprehensive national planning committee for agricultural development, and I do not want that this committee should be a forum for politicians and legislators merely. I want an agricultural planning committee consisting of experts who can study the questions and problems of agriculture scientifically, dispassionately, analytically and synthetically and who can evolve constructive programmes born out of a combined and collective wisdom. Let us make a beginning It is no use merely giving facts and figures, mentioning eggs and not plantains, and mentioning eggs of different types. It is no use merely repeating a formula which was in the lips even of the bureaucracy in the pre-autonomy days. The question is, whether anything has been done to put into operation all these pious objectives. Sir, if you to-day read the budget speech of a Minister even before this present constitution came into existence, you will find the same pious objectives mentioned throughout the length and breadth of the books that were circulated. It will not do to-day merely to feed upon statistics and platitudes. Let us definitely go ahead in this direction. Let us to-day at least lay the foundation of a new order of agricultural prosperity, otherwise this Blue Book as many others of its ancestors will stand out as a record of big promises but of little fulfilment.

Maulana MD. MANIRUZZAMAN ISLAMABADI : স্পীকার মহোদয়! কৃষি-বিভাগের আলোচনা প্রসঙ্গে কৃষি Policy সম্বন্ধে আমি দুই একটী কথা বলিব। আমি সর্ব্বাগ্রে আমাদের শ্রদ্ধেয় কৃষিমন্ত্রী মহোদয়ের নিকট এই কথা জানিতে চাই যে, কৃষি-বিভাগের সৃষ্টির স্বার্থকতা কি? অর্থাৎ কৃষি-বিভাগ যদি উঠিয়া যায় ইহার অস্তিত্ব যদি বিলোপ করিয়া দেওয়া হয় তাহা হইলে বাংলার কৃষক বা কৃষির কোন ক্ষতির সম্ভাবনা আছে কি? অথবা ইহার অস্তিত্ব যদি বজায় রাখা যায়, যেমন বর্ত্তমানে রহিয়াছে বা যেমন চলিয়া আসিতেছে এবং ভবিষ্যতে চলিতে থাকিবে, তদ্বারা বাংলার কৃষির এবং কৃষকের কোন প্রকার উপকার সাধিত হইয়াছে বা ভবিষ্যতে হইবার সম্ভাবনা আছে কি না। আমরা যতদূর তলাইয়া দেখিয়াছি,—বিগত ১৯৩৮-৩৯ সনের বাজেটে দেখা যায়, এই কৃষি-বিভাগে ১৪ লক্ষ, তিন হাজার টাকা ব্যয়িত হইয়াছে এবং তারপর বৎসর ১৯৩৯-৪০ সনে ২১ লক্ষ ৬৪ হাজার টাকা ব্যয়িত হইয়াছে। সুতরাং দেখা যাইতেছে যে, কৃষি-বিভাগের খরচ ক্রমশঃ বর্দ্ধিত হইতে চলিয়াছে। ১৯৪০-৪১ সনে এই বিভাগে ৭২ লক্ষ ৭১ হাজার টাকা ব্যয়িত হইয়াছে এবং বর্ত্তমান ১৯৪১-৪২ সনের বাজেটে ৪৪ লক্ষ ৮১ হাজার টাকা ব্যয় নির্দ্ধারিত করা হইয়াছে। এই সমস্ত figure দেখিলে মনে হয়, বাংলায় কৃষি এবং কৃষকের উন্নতির জন্য গভর্ণমেণ্ট খুব উদার ভবে অর্থ ব্যয় করিতেছেন, কিন্তু এই অর্থ ব্যয়ের ভিতর দিয়া কোন স্থানে কৃষির বা কোন কৃষকের উন্নতির পরিচয় পাওয়া যাইতেছে বলিয়া মনে করিবার কিছুই নাই।

প্রথমত কৃষির উন্নতি করিতে হইলে, এবং কৃষককে বাঁচাইয়া রাখিতে হইলে কৃষকের যে প্রধান সম্বল কৃষিকার্য্যের পশু বলদ কি মহিষ ও গাভীগুলাকে রক্ষার ব্যবস্থা করিতে হইবে অর্থাৎ পশু পালন জন্য সর্ব্বপ্রথম গোচারণ মাঠের প্রয়োজন। গভর্ণমেণ্টের দৃষ্টি এদিকে পুনঃ পুনঃ আকৃষ্ট করা হইয়াছে কিন্তু সবই বৃথা, এ পর্য্যন্ত কোন জেলায়, কোন unionএ বা কোন গ্রামে এক 'একর' জমিও গভর্ণমেণ্ট গোচারণের জন্য নির্দ্দিষ্ট করিয়া দিয়াছেন বলিয়া ইহার কোন প্রমাণ পাওয়া যায় নাই। গোচারণ মাঠ যদি না থাকে তাহা হইলে গো, মহিষ চরিবে কোথায় এবং কৃষির কার্য্য সম্পাদন হইবে কি প্রকারে? অতঃপর গভর্ণমেণ্টের আদর্শ কৃষি ক্ষেত্রের কথা। সেই সকল কৃষি-ক্ষেত্র দ্বারা আমাদের দেশের কৃষকরা কোনরূপ শিক্ষালাভ করিতে পারে সেরূপ উন্নত ধরণের কিছুই সেখানে শিক্ষা দেওয়া হয় না। বৈজ্ঞানিক প্রণালীতে আদর্শ কৃষির নামে যাহা দেখান হইতেছে তাহা হইতে আমাদের কৃষকরা যে কোন প্রকার জ্ঞান লাভ করিতে পারে আমার মনে হয় না। আমি বাংলা দেশের এবং বাংলার বাহিরের অনেক সরকারী কৃষি ক্ষেত্র দেখিয়াছি, সেই সকল কৃষি ক্ষেত্রে যে আমাদের দেশের কৃষকদের শিক্ষণীয় কোন কোন জিনিষ আছে তাহা আমার দৃষ্টিগোচর হয় নাই। গভর্ণমেণ্ট সামান্য জমির উপর যে পরিমাণ labour এবং সার ব্যবহার করিয়া থাকেন সেই হিসাবে আমাদের কৃষকেরা কৃষি কার্য্য করিতে গেলে ব্যয়-বাহুল্য নিবন্ধন আমাদের কৃষকদিগকে দেউলিয়া সাজিতে হইবে। গভর্ণমেণ্ট কৃষির নামে বহু টাকা বরাদ্দ করিয়াছেন, কিন্তু বাস্তবে কৃষক ও কৃষির উন্নতির জন্য যে কিছু করা হইয়াছে সেই বিশ্বাস আমার নাই। আমি একবার চট্টগ্রাম গভর্ণমেণ্ট কৃষি office হইতে দার্জিলিংএর আলুর বীজ সংগ্রহ করিয়াছিলাম কিন্তু

দেখা গেল তাহার সহিত বিস্তর পচা বীজ রহিয়াছে। অনেক লোকের ধারণা, সরকারী বীজ খুব খাঁটি, অতি-উৎকৃষ্ট এবং এই ধারণার বশবর্ত্তী হইয়া তাহারা জমিতে এই প্রকারের বীজ বপন করিয়া থাকে। কিন্তু, সরকারী বীজের মধ্যে যে ভেজাল বীজ চালাইয়া দেওয়া হইয়া থাকে, তাহা পরে পরীক্ষায় ধরা পড়িয়া যায়। তাহার পর গরীব কৃষকরা এই বীজ বিনা মূল্যে পায় না, দাম দিয়া কিনিতে হয়।

এই যে লক্ষ লক্ষ টাকা বাংলার কৃষকের নামে আর কৃষির উন্নতির নামে ব্যয় করা হইতেছে, তাহা হইতে প্রত্যক্ষ এবং পরোক্ষ ভাবে কৃষকরা কোনই উপকার পাইতেছে না।

গাভী ও পশুর উন্নতির জন্য গভর্ণমেণ্ট আমাদের কৃষি-বিভাগের পক্ষ হইতে কতকগুলি বড় বড়, উন্নত ধরণের ষাঁড় বাংলার কয়েক স্থানে রাখিয়া দিয়াছেন, কিন্তু, আমাদের দেশের যে গাভী সেই গাভীর সঙ্গে এই ধরণের ষাঁড়ের কোন সামঞ্জস্য হইতে পারে না। এই সকল ষাঁড়ের দ্বারা যে আমাদের উৎকৃষ্ট ও উন্নত ধরণের গো-বংশ উৎপন্ন হইবে তাহার সম্ভাবনা নাই। যদি সেই রকমের ষাঁড় আমদানি করা হইয়া থাকে, তাহা হইলে সেই ধরণের গাভী ও আমদানী করিয়া পশু শ্রেণীর উৎকর্ষসাধন করা উচিত ছিল। বাংলার গাভীর সহিত খাপ খাইবে না সেই ধরণের কতকগুলি ষাঁড় পুষিয়া লাভ কি? কৃষির উন্নতি আর কৃষকের উন্নতির নামে যদি কতকগুলি লোক পোষণ করাই অভিপ্রেত হয় অথবা কতকগুলি কর্ম্মচারীর ভাত কাপড়ের ব্যবস্থা করা উদ্দেশ্য হয় তাহা হইলে সে কথা স্বতন্ত্র। কিন্তু, তাহারা আমাদের কৃষকের কোনই উন্নতি হইতে পারে না। আর এক কথা গভর্ণমেণ্টের যে Demonstrator নামে কতকগুলি জীব আছে, তাহাদের সহিত কৃষি-বিদ্যার বা practical কৃষির কোন রকম সম্পর্ক আছে কি না সন্দেহ। আমাদের গ্রাম্য কৃষকদের নিকট অনেক বিষয় তাঁহারা শিক্ষা করিতে পারেন, কেননা কৃষকদের কৃষি বিষয়ে অনেক অভিজ্ঞতা আছে। এই সব নব্য যুবকেরা দুই একখানি বই পড়িয়া, প্রফেসারের lecture শুনিয়া গ্রামে যাইয়া কৃষির উন্নতি করিবেন এই কথা আমার কল্পনাতেও আসে না। কাজেই যে সকল উপায় দ্বারা কৃষি এবং কৃষকের প্রকৃত উন্নতি হইতে পারে তাহার ব্যবস্থা করা উচিত।

মাত্র দুই হাজার টাকা যে Exhibition এর ভিতর দিয়া কৃষকদের উন্নতি করিবার জন্য ব্যবস্থা হইয়াছে বাংলার ২৭টি জিলার মধ্যে ঐ টাকাটি ভাগ করিয়া দিলে গড় পড়তায় ৭৫টি টাকার বেশী পড়ে না। এই সামান্য ৭৫টি টাকায় একটী জিলার কৃষকের ও কৃষি কার্য্যের উন্নতি সাধন বা উৎসাহ বর্দ্ধন কিরূপে সম্ভব হইতে পারে। এই যে লক্ষ লক্ষ টাকা কৃষির নামে গভর্ণমেণ্টের কর্ম্মচারী পোষণে ব্যয়িত হইতেছে, তাহার কতকটা অংশ দিয়া যদি আমাদের কৃষি কার্য্যের উন্নতি সাধন করে গোচারণ মাঠের ব্যবস্থা এবং কৃষি ঋণের বন্দোবস্ত করা যায় তাহা হইলে কৃষকদের কিছুটা উপকার হইতে পারে। গ্রামে গো-মড়ক উপস্থিত হইলে ভেটারনারী বিভাগ হইতে injection দেওয়া হইয়া থাকে; কিন্তু, তাহাতে দেখা যায়, উহার ফলে গো-মড়কের সংখ্যা ক্রমে বাড়িয়াই যায়। ইহার প্রতিকারের কি কোন উপায় নাই? ইহার কারণ কর্ত্তৃপক্ষকে জিজ্ঞাসা করিলে বলা হয়—কি করা যায়, সুদূর মফঃস্বলে যাইয়া চিকিৎসকদিগকে injection দিতে হয়। এই injectionএর উপাদান তৈরী হইবার সঙ্গে সঙ্গে প্রয়োগ না করিলে উপকার হয় না। এইদিকে injectionএর উপাদান প্রস্তুত করিয়া মফঃস্বলে

পাঠাইতে পাঠাইতে সমস্তই অকেজো হইয়া যায়, সুতরাং তাহার দ্বারা কোন ফল হয় না। ইহা যদি হয় তাহা হইলে গো-মড়ক নিবারণের জন্য এত টাকা দিয়া ডাক্তার পুষিয়া, এবং ঔষধপত্র তৈরী করিবার জন্য খরচ করিবার স্বার্থকতা কি?

গভর্ণমেণ্টের Jute Regulation Policy সম্বন্ধে অনেকে অনেক কথা বলিয়াছেন। মফঃস্বলের লোকেরা অনেকে জমির দাগ বা plot number এবং একর শব্দের অর্থ বোঝে না। বিশেষতঃ পাট চাষের ১-৩, ২-৩ ভাগ জমির অর্থ গ্রাম্য লোকেরা বুঝিবে না। সুতরাং সরকারী কর্ম্মচারীগণ যদি গ্রামে গ্রামে ঘুরিয়া তাহাদের বুঝাইয়া দেন যে, plot বলিতে কি বুঝায় এবং কোন কোন plot কৃষক এবার চাষ করিবে, তাহা হইলে তাহারা হাপ ছাড়িয়া বক্ষা পাইতে পারে। কেবল ১-৩, ২-৩ ভাগে চাষ করিবে, ইহা বলিলেই তাহারা কিছুই দিশা পাইবে না। তাহারা ইহাতে ইচ্ছামত বা নিজের সুবিধা মত এক জায়গায় কিছু চাষ করিয়া বসিবে, আর আমাদের কৃষি-বিভাগের কর্ম্মচারীগণ Inspector, Assistant Inspectorগণ তথায় উপস্থিত হইয়া দেখিবেন যে, সেই সমস্ত এলাকায় সরকারী কৃষি-বিভাগের নিয়ম অনুযায়ী পাট চাষ করা হয় নাই। অতএব ঐ সমস্ত নিরীহ লোকদিগকে ফৌজদারী সোপর্দ্দ করিয়া বসিবেন এবং তাহার পর আদালতে তাহাদের লইয়া টানাটানি আরম্ভ হইবে। মন্ত্রিমণ্ডলী এই গরীব চাষীদের উপকার করিতে পারুন বা না পারুন, কৃষি কার্য্যের উন্নতি হউক বা না হউক, যে সকল কৃষক এক একর বা তন্নিম্ন জমির উপর পাট চাষ করিবে তাহারা অন্ততঃ যাহাতে এই Jute Regulation Actএর আমল হইতে রেহাই পায় তাহার ব্যবস্থা করুন।

Mr. SPEAKER: I think I will put Mr. Jonabali Majumdar's motion first. As I have said, I have come to the conclusion that it cannot be on Jute Regulation Act. It will be for Jute Restriction Scheme.

The motion of Maulvi Jonab Ali Majumdar that the demand of Rs. 43,85,000 under the head "40—Agriculture" be reduced by Rs. 100, was then put and a division taken with the following result:—

AYES—35.

Abdul Hakeem, Mr.
Abdul Wahed, Maulvi.
Ahmed Khan, Mr. Syed.
Banerji, Mr. Satya Priya.
Barma, Babu Premhari.
Barma, Mr. Puspajit.
Barman, Babu Shyama Prosad.
Barman, Babu Upendra Nath.
Basu, Mr. Santosh Kumar.
Bhowmik, Dr. Gobinda Chandra.
Biswas, Babu Lakshmi Narayan.
Biswas, Mr. Surendra Nath.
Chaudhuri, Rai Harendra Nath.
Das, Mr. Monmohan.
Das Gupta, Babu Khagendra Nath.
Dutta Gupta, Miss Mira.
Dutta Mazumdar, Mr. Niharendu.
Emdadul Haque, Kazi.
Ghose, Mr. Atul Krishna.
Giasuddin Ahmed, Mr.
Gupta, Mr. J. N.
Hasan Ali Chowdhury, Mr. Syed.
Jonab Ali Majumdar, Maulvi.
Kumar, Mr. Atul Chandra.
Kundu, Mr. Nishitha Nath.
Maji, Mr. Adwaita Kumar.
Majumdar, Mrs. Hemaprova.
Mandal, Mr. Krishna Prasad.
Maniruzzaman Islamabadi, Maulana Md.
Naskar, Mr. Hem Chandra.
Roy, Mr. Charu Chandra.
Roy, Mr. Manmatha Nath.
Sanyal, Mr. Sasanka Sekhar.
Thakur, Mr. Pramatha Ranjan.
Waliur Rahman, Maulvi.

NOES—87.

Abdul Aziz, Maulana Md.
Abdul Hafiz, Mr. Mia.
Abdul Hamid, Mr. A. M.
Abdul Karim, Mr.
Abdul Majid, Maulvi.
Abdul Majid, Mr. Syed.
Abdulla-Al Mahmood, Mr.
Abdur Rasheed, Mr. Md.
Abdul Motaleb Malik, Dr.
Abdur Rauf, Khan Bahaudr Shah.
Abdur Razzak, Maulvi.
Abidur Reza Chowdhury, Khan Bahadur Maulvi.
Abul Hosain Ahmed, Mr.
Ahmed Ali Enayetpuri, Khan Bahadur Maulana.
Ahmed Ali Mridha, Maulvi.
Ahmed Hosain, Mr.
Alfazuddin Ahmed, Khan Bahadur Maulvi.
Aminullah, Khan Sahib Maulvi.
Amir Ali Mia, Maulvi Md.
Ansarul Azim, Khan Bahadur Md.
Ashrafali, Mr. M.
Azhar Ali, Maulvi.
Barat Ali, Mr. Md.
Birkmyre, Sir Henry, Bart.
Biswas, Mr. Rasik Lal.
Chippendale, Mr. J. W.
Das, Rai Sahib Kirit Bhusan.
Dass, Babu Debendra Nath.
Farhad Raza Chowdhury, Mr. M.
Farhut Bano Khanam, Begum.
Fazlul Huq, the Hon'ble Mr. A. K.
Fazlul Quadir, Khan Bahadur Maulvi.
Fazlur Rahman, Mr. (Dacca).
Fazlur Rahman, Mr. (Mymensingh).
Gladding, Mr. D.
Golam Sarwar Hosaini, Mr. Shah Syed.
Gomes, Mr. S. A.
Griffiths, Mr. C.
Gurung, Mr. Damber Singh.
Habibullah, the Hon'ble Nawab Bahadur K., of Dacca.
Hafizuddin Choudhuri, Maulvi.
Hamiduddin Ahmad, Khan Sahib.
Hasanuzzaman, Maulvi Md.
Hasina Murshed, Mrs., M.B.E.
Heywood, Mr. Rogers.
Jalaluddnin Ahmad, Khan Bahadur Maulvi.
Kazem Ali Mirza, Sahibzada Kawan Jah Syed.
Kennedy, Mr. I. G.
McGregor, Mr. G. G.
Mandal, Mr. Banku Behari.
Mandal, Mr. Jagat Chandra.
Maniruddin Akhand, Maulvi.
Masud Ali Khan Panni, Al-Hadj Maulvi.
Miles, Mr. C. W.
Mohammed Ali, Khan Bahadur.
Morgan, Mr. G., C. I. E.
Moslem Ali Mollah, Maulvi M.
Muhammad Ibrahim, Maulvi.
Muhammad Ishaque, Maulvi.
Muhammad Israil, Maulvi.
Mullick, the Hon'ble Mr. Mukunda Behary.
Musharruff Hossain, the Hon'ble Nawab, Khan Bahadur.
Mustagawsal Haque, Mr. Syed.
Nandy, the Hon'ble Maharaja Srischandra, of Cossimbazar.
Nasarullah, Nawabzada K.
Patton, Mr. W. C.
Rahman, Khan Bahadur A. M. L.
Raikut, the Hon'ble Mr. Prasanna Deb.
Razaur Rahman Khan, Mr.
Roy, Mr. Dhananjoy.
Safiruddin Ahmed, Haji.
Sahebe-Alam, Mr. Syed.
Sarkar, Babu Madhusudan.
Serajul Islam, Mr.
Shahabuddin, Mr. Khwaja, C. B. E.
Shamsuddin Ahmed Khondkar, Mr.
Speller, Mr. J. H.
Sirdar, Babu Litta Munda.
Smith, Mr. H. Brabant.
Steven, Mr. J. W. R.
Suhrawardy, the Hon'ble Mr. H. S.
Stark, Mr. A. F.
Tamizuddin Khan, the Hon'ble Mr.
Walker, Mr. W. A. M.
Whitehead, Mr. R. B.
Wordsworth, Mr. W. C.
Yousuf Mirza.

The Ayes being 35 and the Noes 87, the motion was lost.

Mr. SHYAMA PROSAD BARMAN: The complete dependence of the population of Bengal upon agriculture has been increasing day by day, inasmuch as it has assumed to be a danger spot on the economic structure of the country. A country, which had manufactured and exported the finest muslins and other luxurious fabrics and articles, at a time when the ancestors of the British were living an extremely primitive life, has lost her former self-sufficiency and has been forced into an undignified dependent position by foreign domination and economic exploitation of the country.

Sir, modern conditions and large-scale scientific production brought about the destruction of the indigenous industries as a result of which many people have been forced to take to the land as their only living,

causing overcrowding on the tiny holdings. It is for this reason that there arises the urgency for improving and overhauling the Agricultural Department.

Sir, when we scrutinise the budget, we are greatly disappointed not to find any scheme for the improvement of agriculture of the province. Bengal's peasant reduced to a skeleton by endemic and epidemic diseases, by malaria, kala-azar, influenza, tuberculosis, by cholera and small-pox, overburdened with a heavy debt which he can no longer bear, tills the soil—a tiny holding—with a primitive wooden plough drawn by a pair of similarly emaciated puny bullocks. This is the real picture of the agricultural population of Bengal, and this is the way in which the agricultural operation—the only means of wealth production of the country—is being carried on even in this stage of modern scientific development.

We are very much amused to learn that the Government have decided to send at the cost of Rs. 6,160 an expert to Japan for investigating into the causes of high outturn of paddy there. But has the Hon'ble Minister investigated into the causes of low outturn not only of paddy but of all other crops in this country? Is not this low outturn of crops due mainly to the following causes:—

(1) that owing to the pressure of population upon the land there has been unusual fragmentation of holdings;

(2) that there has been a terrible lowering of the general health of the agricultural population of the province entailing a heavy economic loss to the province;

(3) that the agricultural population of the province are overburdened with huge debts which lead directly to the agricultural inefficiency and loss of property.

A person heavily in debt can have little incentive for making the utmost use of his lands, nor will he be able to introduce better crops and better methods and ultimately may lose his property. There is every indication in the country that landless agriculturists and labourers, I mean the *bargadars* and *adhiars*, have enormously increased in recent years. The landless agriculturist occupies the lowest rung of the economic ladder—that toiling and long-suffering serf, who is the easy victim of unemployment and who is the first to suffer from famine, malaria, kala-azar, influenza and all other diseases. A single meal a day, thin loin cloth, a thatched hut, a cotton rag, these constitute his only necessities of life and these are all he can hope for in a year of plenty. The desired luxuries are to lie in shade and sleep and smoke and chatter. The proportion of landless labourers are so large that it has become a menace and a danger spot in the

rural economy of the province, and it now threatens the very economic structure of society, somewhere it rises to the fury of fire-raising and bazar-looting as the money-lenders and landlords become too importune in their demands.

Is the Hon'ble Minister aware of another main cause of low outturn of crops? It is the dependance of agriculture of Bengal upon the monsoon, the nature of which is probably the most important cause of prosperity or distress in the province. In Bengal there being no or little irrigation works, successful cultivation cannot be assured for any year. In a normal year a large number of people do not earn enough to maintain themselves. But normal years are not too frequent. In nearly every year, something or other happens to the crops; rains fail, or there is too much rain and flood, or rain comes at the wrong time of the year, all these leading to the failure of crops.

There is yet another cause, I mean the depletion of the soil. There has been actual exhaustion of the soil in areas where there are no large rivers. If no attempt is made to supply manure in these areas, there is every likelihood of very little yield of crops there.

These are some of the important problems of agriculture. But, Sir, have the Government made any attempt to tackle or solve any of the problems?

As regards safeguard against the worst effects of failure of rains, the Government have made no scheme whatsoever. North and West Bengal which are unfortunate enough not to have any big rivers are easy victims of the failure of crops due to want of rain. But I can tell the Hon'ble Minister that in North Bengal, especially in Dinajpur, there is a good number of large and old tanks everywhere. These tanks can be easily re-excavated at a minimum cost to be utilised for irrigation purposes. But Government have paid no attention to it. On the other hand the Government are busy in establishing agricultural farms and demonstration farms with a motive best known to the Ministry. These farms have practically done no tangible works for the improvement of agriculture.

I shall now deal with another difficulty which the agriculturists are having in their daily life—I mean, the problem of marketing. As soon as the harvest-time ends, the trouble of the agriculturists begins. When the news that the crops are stored in the house of the agriculturist reaches the ear of the landlord and the *mahajan*, the *barkandazes* and men of the zemindars and *mahajans* beseige his house with importune demand of their dues, both legal and illegal. He is harassed day in and day out. As a result of this, he is forced to sell his produce. The poor cultivator has no cart to carry the produce to the market, and so he is forced to take the aid of the *beparis* and middlemen, who come to his house with a confusing variety

of weights and measures. Both his isolation and preoccupation with his daily routine works prevent him from following the market conditions and from knowing the local price of his produce. Thus he sells his crops at the price dictated by the *beparis*. As there is no measure of protection against false and fraudulent weighment and measure, there are so many weights and measures that it requires a good brain to find out the rate by a particular weighment. In my constituency, I mean, Dinajpur, we have a seer of 60 *tolas*, a seer of 70 *tolas*, of 80 *tolas*, of 96 *tolas*, of 100 *tolas*, of 110 *tolas* and of 120 *tolas*!

(At this stage the House was adjourned for 15 minutes.)

(After adjournment.)

Mr. SHYAMA PROSAD BARMAN: Mr. Deputy Speaker, Sir, before adjournment I was speaking on weighment. After the weighment is over, the *bepari* puts a demand of catalogue of market charges: *mahldari*, *dalta*, *goshala* and all other things. The agriculturist, with his weak bargaining power and poor resources at his disposal, is forced to sell his produce to the clever and dishonest *bepari* and *pharia* at whatever price he can attain and pays whatever deductions the *beparis* demand! If the Government want to save the agriculturists from utter ruination, it is high time that the Government should bring at once a suitable legislation for the regulation of markets, for the control of the middlemen and for dealing with cases of fraudulent and false weighments and unauthorised deductions and any other deceptions.

There has been general complaint from the public that the major portion of the allocation for the nation-building activities is consumed in paying the establishment charges. This will be clear from the budget. Most of the provision for agriculture is for direction, superintendence, and for paying the salaries of demonstrators and establishment charges. A very magnificent sum of Rs. 4,000 has been provided for distribution of improved ploughs amongst the cultivators. What can it be but a huge mockery? We find that Rs. 3,789 has been provided for the improvement of goats of the province. And I think there is meaning in it. For want of pasture lands and fodder, and also due to the prevalence of cattle diseases, bullocks and buffaloes are dying in large number and they will be very scarce in the near future. I think to cope with the situation, the Hon'ble Minister has made provision for the improvement of goats, which will be utilized for the purpose of cultivation and which will be the worthy substitutes for bullocks and buffaloes now in use.

Now, Sir, the real needs of the agricultural population of the province are not the expert knowledge in high outturn of paddy or establishment of farms; what they really want are sound health in

a sound body, money just sufficient to purchase a plough and a pair of strong bullocks for tilling the soil and a good market and a fair and reasonable price for his agricultural commodities.

In the budget there is nothing—absolutely nothing—to help the toiling masses in the fields. They want food and they want clothing. They do not want to be told to tighten their rag of a belt, more and still more, while they are being carried deeper and deeper into the abyss of poverty and bankruptcy and utter ruination. Raw materials are losing their overseas market, while prices mount higher and higher. Officialisation of the Calcutta Corporation will not console the agricultural population of Bengal, who suffer perennially from unsatisfied hunger Communalisation of primary and secondary schools will not feed the masses, who have seen the jute crop go for nothing.

A census war of sectarianism cannot blind the masses to the false patriotism The masses want bread, they must have bread—the promised *dalbhat*—no, the simple *nun-bhat*

Mr. M. FARHAD RAZA CHOWDHURY: Mr. Deputy Speaker, Sir, I don't move the motion that stands in my name, but I wish to discuss the policy and principles connected with Agriculture and Board of Agriculture in Bengal. Sir, I wonder that I have to take up the subject here for a discussion—a subject in which 80 per cent. of the population of Bengal is vitally interested and directly concerned and which is their mainstay to keep them engaged for their livelihood Sir, Bengal is said to be the granary of India But it is a matter of great regret that practically no policy worth mentioning has been adopted by Government for the improvement of agriculture in Bengal. what is followed by the people in their agricultural pursuits is still hackneyed and stereotyped, left only to chances and accidents What has Government done in the interests of the agriculturists who form the backbone of the nation save and except that it spends some money for running the departmental routines in which the real agriculturists have little interest—the man behind the plough is systematically ignored so to speak The Hon'ble Speaker has recently produced with his able pen a volume on the subject worth reading and consideration with all seriousness it deserves. But agriculture is being neglected as before. There is a Board of Agriculture which sits only for less than an hour in a year to deal with so important a subject. Proper care has not been taken to utilise their services for the evolution of a systematic programme for agriculture. The meeting of the Board is called once in a year and then allowed to sleep—it is nothing short of a mere eyewash, a mere advertisement to associate certain big or honoured names with it to produce nothing. As usual, the Board met last year for less than an hour in July last with the result that its

proceedings have not yet been circulated! I would seriously ask, what has been done in the economic interest of the agriculturists—the men behind the plough? Has anything been done to educate them in the least so that they may be benefited in their every day details of agriculture pursuits—has any attempt been made to bring to their very doors the results of agricultural demonstrations and experiments—to organise them on co-operative lines and to adopt measures as have been done in the West! One or two agricultural colleges are only a meagre step forward in their cause. What is wanted is that schemes should be evolved, programmes of policy should be laid out without delay, so that the men behind the plough might be organised and properly financed to solve their own interests in their pursuits of life. For this purpose I humbly suggest that the Board should be vested with necessary powers to consider and suggest steps so that even the commonest agriculturist can have the benefits of organisation, and education in their humble avocations of life, and can be in a position to really appreciate that Government is trying to do something for their well-being. What is needed most is that in every union there should be free and compulsory night schools to disseminate agricultural education amongst the very men who are behind the plough. Their economic salvations should rest with them alone and not with the highly educated products of the agricultural colleges only. Sir, I have suggested the mere indications and given hints, and trust that the question will receive a careful consideration at the hands of Government.

Mr. ADWAITA KUMAR MAJI: আমি শ্রীযুক্ত সান্যাল মহাশয় সরকারী কৃষি বিভাগের পরিকল্পনা সমালোচনার জন্য যে ছাঁটাই প্রস্তাব এনেছেন, তাহা সমর্থন করছি। বাংলার প্রধান উৎপন্ন দ্রব্য পাট ও ধান। পাট সম্বন্ধে ইতিপূর্ব্বে যথেষ্ট আলোচনা হয়েছে এবং সেই দিক দিয়ে Governmentএর policy সম্বন্ধেও বিশদভাবে বলা হয়েছে। দ্বিতীয় প্রধান ফসল ধান; সে সম্বন্ধে আমি কিছু বলবো।

আমরা দেখ্‌তে পাই যে ১৯৩৪ সালে, Crop Planning Conference ভারত Governmentকে যে report দিয়েছিলেন সেই reportএ উল্লেখ করা হয়েছে ১,২৫,০০০ টন্‌ চাউল প্রতি বৎসর বাংলা দেশে ঘাট্‌তি পড়ছে। এবং এই ঘাট্‌তি পূরণ করবার জন্য অধিকাংশ চাউল ব্রহ্মদেশ এবং অন্যান্য দেশ থেকে আমাদের এখানে আমদানী করা হচ্ছে। কিন্তু Madras, Bombay Presidency বা Sindhএ এরূপ ঘাটতি হয় না। বাংলা Government এর reportএ আরো দেখতে পাই আমাদের দেশের উৎপন্ন ফসলের হার, যেখানে প্রতি জমিটি চাষ হয়, সেখানে অনেক কমে গিয়েছে। Madrasএ যেখানে reservoirs থেকে জল দ্বারা চাষ হয় সেখানে জলসাধারণের অভাব মিটাইবার জন্য ধান উৎপন্ন হয় এবং তাহা বাংলা দেশের চেয়ে বেশী। আমরা আরো দেখতে পাই জাপান, যেখানে আমাদের দেশের মত লোক বেশী সেখানেও বাংলার চেয়ে প্রায় তিন গুণ ফসল উৎপন্ন হয়। Italy, Spain

প্রভৃতি অন্যান্য ইউরোপীয় দেশেও Japanএর চেয়ে বেশী ফসল উৎপন্ন হয়। আমাদের বিহার ও উড়িষ্যা প্রদেশেও যেখানে কৃষির ভাল ব্যবস্থা নেই সেখানেও আমাদের বাংলা দেশের চেয়ে কম ধান উৎপন্ন হয় না। বাংলা দেশে প্রাকৃতিক বিষয়ে অধিকতর সুবিধা থাকা সত্বেও এত যে কম ফসল উৎপন্ন হয় তার কারণ কি? তথাকথিত জনপ্রিয় Government প্রকৃত কার্য্যকরী করার জন্য কোন কোন কৃষি বিভাগীয় প্রণালি স্থির না করাই একমাত্র কারণ। পাটের চাষ এত বেড়ে গেছে যে বর্ত্তমানে তাহার দাম খুব কম হয়েছে এবং তাতে চাষীদের অনেক অসুবিধা হয়েছে। পাট যাতে কম হয় তার জন্য পাট চাষ নিয়ন্ত্রণ ব্যবস্থা হয়েছে কিন্তু ধান যাতে বেশী পরিমাণে অন্ততঃ আমাদের প্রয়োজন মত উৎপন্ন হয় তার জন্য কোন ব্যবস্থা করেন নাই কিম্বা কৃষি বিভাগে যে দোষ ত্রুটী আছে তাহা সংশোধন করার জন্য বিশেষ কোন চেষ্টা হয় নাই। আমার মনে হয় এর কারণ হচ্ছে আমাদের দেশে Agricultural Department থেকে যে সমস্ত কাজ কর্ম্ম ও গবেষনা করা হয় তার সঙ্গে জনসাধারণের ও আমাদের চাষীদের কোন সংযোগ নাই। এই কয়টী বিষয়ে Government নজর দিলে আমাদের দেশে কৃষি কার্য্যের এবং কৃষকদের উন্নতি হতে পারে, যথা (১) উন্নত ধরনের বীজ সরবরাহ, (২) সার, (৩) সেচ ও জল নিকাশের ব্যবস্থা, (৪) যাতায়াতের ও যানবাহনাদির চলাচলের ব্যবস্থা, (৫) কৃষি কার্য্যের সরঞ্জাম সরবরাহ, (৬) গোচারণ ভূমি ও গো-রক্ষণের ব্যবস্থা, (৭) কৃষি সমিতি গঠন, (৮) কৃষি Bank স্থাপন, (৯) পণ্য বিক্রয়ের ব্যবস্থা, (১০) চাষের ও চাষীদের উন্নতির জন্য একটা ভাল আইন প্রণয়ন এবং বর্ত্তমানের কয়েকটী আইন সংশোধন, (১১) উৎপন্ন ফসলের নিম্নতম মূল্য স্থির করা।

আমাদের দেশে গোচারণ ভূমি ও গো-রক্ষার ব্যবস্থা নাই। কৃষকদের সুবিধার জন্য কতকগুলি আইন প্রণয়ন করা দরকার। সে সম্বন্ধে Government কিছুই করেন নাই। যে কয়েকটী আইন কানুন করা হোয়েছে, যেমন বঙ্গীয় প্রজাস্বত্ব আইন, মহাজনী আইন, চাষী খাতক আইন এবং সমবায় সমিতি আইন, এই গুলির দ্বারা চাষীদের সুবিধার জন্য এবং চাষের যাতে উন্নতি হয় সেই দিকে লক্ষ্য রেখে যথেষ্ট উন্নতি এবং সংশোধন করা দরকার। এই সব দিক দিয়া বহুদিন যাবৎ Governmentএর কোন সাড়া পাওয়া যায় নাই। গত বৎসর দেখিলাম কোন কোন গ্রামে কৃষি বিভাগ হতে এক সের, দুই সের ধানের বীজ দেওয়া হোচ্ছে। কিন্তু, এই বীজগুলি সাধারণ চাষীদের জমিতে কিরূপ ফসল উৎপন্ন করবে তাহা বিবেচনা না করিয়াই বিতরণ করা হয়েছে। কৃষি বিভাগের বড় বড় বৈজ্ঞানিকেরা চুঁচুড়া বা ঢাকার Farmএ বসে বলে দিলেন এই বীজে ভাল ফসল হবে, কিন্তু তাঁরা সাধারণ চাষীদের জমির মাটি পরীক্ষা করে দেখেন কি? সে ব্যবস্থা নাই। কাজেই এই বীজ দেওয়ার কোন অর্থ নাই। Government মোটা মোটা বেতন দিয়ে অনেক সায়েন্টিষ্ট রেখেছেন কেবল মাত্র নিজের Farmএ research করবার জন্য। কবে যে তাহাদের এই গবেষণা বাংলার চাষীদের মুক্তির পথ আবিষ্কার কোরবে তাহা কল্পনার অতীত। তারপর সারের কথা—সার আমাদের দেশে নাই বল্লেই হয়। আমরা Japan প্রভৃতি দেশ হইতে সার কিনিয়া থাকি, কিন্তু তার দাম এত

বেশী যে সাধারণ চাষী তা কিনতে পারে না। আমাদের দেশের কাচা হাড় প্রভৃতি সার অন্য দেশে ব্যবহৃত হয়ে তথাকার কাজে লাগে। আমাদের কাজে লাগাবার জন্য কোন বৈজ্ঞানিক পন্থা আবিষ্কার করেন নাই। জ্বালানীর জন্য অনেক গরীব চাষী নিজেদের জমির সার গোবর পুড়িয়ে ফেলে এ বিষয়ে তাদিগকে উপদেশ দিয়ে অন্য জ্বালানীর উপায় কোরে দেওয়ার চেষ্টা Government করেন নি। কাজেই উপযুক্ত সারের অভাবে আমাদের জমির উর্ব্বরা শক্তি অনেক পরিমাণে কমে আসছে। সেইজন্য সাধারণ চাষীদের জমিতে সার দেওয়ার ব্যবস্থা করা বিশেষ প্রয়োজন। তারপর সেচের ব্যবস্থা সম্বন্ধে নষ্ট পরিকল্পনা আছে। হুগলী-হাওড়া সেচ পরিকল্পনা যে টাকার অভাবে কার্য্যকরী হবে না তাহা আমার দৃঢ় ধারণা Government এরও এ বিষয়ে বিশেষ উৎসাহ দেখতে পাচ্ছি না। যে সব নদীগুলি হেজে মজে গেছে সেগুলিরও ব্যবস্থা কোরতে হবে। এই সেচ পরিকল্পনা পশ্চিম বঙ্গে অতি সত্তর কার্য্যে পরিণত করা প্রয়োজন নতুবা সেখানে অনাবৃষ্টির জন্য দুর্ভিক্ষ হ'য়ে মরুভূমিতে পরিণত হ'বে। তা ছাড়া ধান জমির জন্য এই সেচ ব্যবস্থা বিশেষ প্রয়োজন। নতুবা বাংলার ধান ও ফসলের উৎপন্নের পরিমানের হার আরও অনেক কমে যাবে।

তারপর রাস্তার কথা—চাষীরা তাদের উৎপন্ন দ্রব্য বিক্রয়ের জন্য হাট বাজারে লইয়া যায় কিন্তু সেজন্য ভাল রাস্তার ব্যবস্থা নাই। পূর্ব্ব বঙ্গে অনেক যায়গায় নদী খাল আছে কিন্তু পশ্চিম বঙ্গে গ্রীষ্ম কাল ছাড়া অনেক যায়গা থেকে জিলা বা মহকুমা সহরে যাবার কোন ব্যবস্থা নেই। অনেক যায়গায় Government কিছু কিছু কাজ আরম্ভ কোরে ভুলে যান কৃষকদের ও জনসাধারনের যাতায়াতের অসুবিধার কথা। যেমন দামোদর নদীর উপর বর্দ্ধমান সদরঘাটের সেতু ও আরামবাগ রোডের দামোদরের দক্ষিণ তীরের রাস্তা নির্ম্মাণ কার্য্য। তারপর হাট-বাজারের নিয়ন্ত্রণ নাই। সেখানে চাষীদের আড়ৎদার ও ব্যবসাদারগণের জন্য নির্য্যাতনের সীমা নাই ও চাষের সাজ-সরঞ্জাম মাত্র ২১৪ খানা উন্নত ধরণের লাঙ্গল গভর্ণমেণ্ট বিতরণ করেই ক্ষান্ত হন; এতেই কি চাষের প্রয়োজনীয় আসবাব-পত্রের অভাব মিটে যাবে? এই সকল দোষক্রটীর দিকে Governmentএর সত্বর নজর দেওয়া উচিত এবং এগুলির প্রতিকার হওয়া প্রয়োজন। তারপর চাষীদের উন্নতির জন্য যে আইনগুলি করা হোয়েছে সেগুলোয় যথেষ্ট দোষ আছে, এতে চাষীদের অনেক ক্ষতি হচ্ছে। এর মধ্যে আমি প্রজাস্বত্বের আইনের কথা বোলেছি। এই আইনের দ্বারা জমা খারিজের ব্যবস্থা হোয়েছে আদালত থেকে এবং আবওয়াব প্রভৃতি বে-আইনি আদায় বন্ধ হোয়েছে। কিন্তু, ঐ সমস্ত বিধান থাকা সত্বেও সাধারণ কৃষকদিগকে জমিদারগণ বাকী খাজনার জন্য জমা খারিজ দেন না এবং নালিশ হোয়ে জমি নষ্ট হোচ্ছে। বে-আইনি আদায়ও যথেষ্ট হোচ্ছে—তার একটা জ্বলন্ত প্রমাণ দিচ্ছি। বেশীদিনের কথা নয়—মাত্র পনেরো দিন আগে—আমাদের মাননীয় রাজস্ব-সচিব মহাশয়ের পিতৃদেবের জমিদারিতে যে আবওয়াব আদায় করা হোচ্ছে তা তাঁর গোমস্তা প্রকাশ্য আদালতে স্বীকার কোরেছেন। এবং রসিদ পর্য্যন্ত আদালতে দাখিল হয়েছে।

এই ত গভর্ণমেণ্ট আর তার আইন—যিনি রক্ষক তিনিই ভক্ষক।

আমাদের দেশে গোচারণের কোন ব্যবস্থা নাই। যে সমস্ত গোচারণের জমি ছিল সেগুলি জমিদারেরা নিজেদের under এ খাস কোরে নিয়েছেন। এগুলিকে রক্ষা করবার জন্য গভর্ণমেণ্টের আইন প্রণয়ন করা দরকার। তারপর চাষী-খাতক আইন কৃষকদের ঋণের পরিমাণ কিছু কিছু লাঘব কোরেছে বটে, কিন্তু সঙ্গে সঙ্গে কৃষক-সাধারণের private credit নষ্ট হোয়েছে। ইহার জন্য তাহাদের দুর্দ্দশার শেষ নাই। ইহার প্রতিকারের জন্য এবং তাহাদিগকে বাঁচাইতে হইলে বাংলাদেশে প্রতি থানায় অন্ততঃ কৃষি Bank স্থাপন অবিলম্বে দরকার। গভর্ণমেণ্ট সে দিক দিয়ে মোটেই অগ্রসর হোচ্ছেন না। তারপর মহাজনী আইন প্রজাদের সুবিধার জন্য করা হোয়েছে। আমি যতদূর জানি, আমাদের জেলায় কোন মহাজন Licence লয় নাই বা কোন খাতক আদালতে যাইতে সাহস করে নাই। ভয়ে এবং অভাবের তাড়নায় এবং ঋণে জড়িত হ'য়ে তারা মৃতপ্রায়—তার প্রতিকার কি? বাংলাদেশের অন্যান্য জেলার অবস্থাও বোধ হয় ঐরূপই হবে।

তারপর আর একটা আইন যার দ্বারা জনসাধারণের ও কৃষকের প্রকৃত উপকার হোতে পারে, সেই সমবায় সমিতি আইনের কথা বোলতে গেলে বোলতে হয় এই আইন চাষীদের কোন উন্নতির সাহায্য করে নাই বা সেরূপ কোন ধারা এ আইনে নাই, বরং এ আইন থাকায় দেশের চাষীদের উপর যথেষ্ট পরিমাণ নির্য্যাতন ও নিপীড়ন করা হোচ্ছে। সমবায় সমিতির কি উদ্দেশ্য তাহা দেশের লোককে আজ পর্য্যন্ত বুঝতে দেওয়া হয় নাই। কেবল মাত্র Government কোন কোন যায়গায় এই সমিতি স্থাপন কোরে Loan Bank এর মত কৃষকদিগকে ঋণ দিচ্ছেন এবং এই ঋণ আদায়ের জন্য উৎপীড়ন কোচ্ছেন। আবার অনেক যায়গায় এই সব সমিতির টাকা কর্ম্মচারীরা আত্মসাৎ কোচ্ছেন। এই সকল কথা গভর্ণমেণ্ট দেখেও দেখেন না। সমবায় প্রথায় কাজ কোরে চাষীরা উন্নতি কোরবে, এ উপায় আমাদের দেশে নেই। Government এর উচিত চাষীদের মধ্যে সমবায় সমিতি স্থাপন কোরে দেওয়া এবং এই সকল সমিতি কার্য্যকরী করার জন্য পল্লী-সংগঠন করে চাষীদের মনোবৃত্তি বদলাবার জন্য উপদেশ দেওয়া, তারপর গভর্ণমেণ্টের farm এর কথা। বর্দ্ধমানে একটী Agricultural Farm আছে—সেখানে গেলে দেখা যায় সেখানকার কর্ম্মচারীরা খায় দায় আর মাঝে মাঝে Government কে report দেয়। তার জন্য কর্ম্মচারীরা বেতন পায়, আরও কত কি পায়। কিন্তু তাতে গরীব চাষীদের কি উন্নতি হবে? কর্ম্মচারীরা কি দেশের কৃষি ও কৃষকদের উন্নতির জন্য নিযুক্ত হয়েছেন, না ঐ সকল farms চিড়িয়া-খানার জন্তুদের মত লোকদিগকে দেখাবার জন্য? জিলার সাধারণ চাষীর সহিত তাঁহারা আলাপ ও আলোচনা পর্য্যন্ত করেন না। এই সকল লোক কোরবেন চাষ ও চাষের উন্নতি! হা, আমার দুর্ভাগা দেশ, কেবল গবেষণা আর গবেষণা। এই ভাবে আমাদের গভর্ণমেণ্টের বুড় বড় পণ্ডিত কর্ম্মচারীরা শুধু farm এ গবেষণায় মগ্ন থাকলে দেশের চাষীদের মুক্তি ও কৃষির উন্নতি কোথায় এবং কবে হবে। এই সব কৃষকরা কি বেঁচে থাকবে সে দিন, যে দিন তাঁদের গবেষণা শেষ হবে? ইহার পর কৃষি সমিতির কথা। প্রত্যেক মহকুমায়এক একটী করে কৃষি সমিতি স্থাপন বিশেষ প্রয়োজন, তার দ্বারা

সরকারী কর্ম্মচারী এবং কৃষকের মধ্যে যোগাযোগ স্থাপিত হবে। কিন্তু দুঃখের বিষয় আমাদের দেশে এরূপ সমিতি নাই। একমাত্র বগুড়া জেলা ও জলপাইগুড়িতেই দেখতে পাই কৃষকদের মধ্যে এরূপ সমিতি গঠন করে দেওয়া হোয়েছে।

জলপাইগুড়িতে আমাদের মাননীয় মন্ত্রী নবাব মুসারফ হোসেন সাহেবর জমিদারীতে জল সেচের দ্বারা চাষ করা হোচ্ছে, এই কাজের জন্য ১,৫০০ দেড় হাজার টাকার বীজ গভর্ণমেণ্ট কিনেছেন। এই হোল সমিতির নমুনা। নবাব সাহেবের জমিদারিতে যেখানে পূর্ব্বে কিছুই হোত না, তার আয় বাড়বে আর আমাদের গভর্ণমেণ্টেরও সুনাম বাড়বে এই হলো আমাদের দেশে কৃষি সমিতির কাজ। এই সব কাজ দেখে মনে হয় গভর্ণমেণ্ট কোন পরিকল্পনা কোরে কাজ করেন না। যেখানে খুসী নিজেদের সুবিধার জন্য কৃষি বিভাগের কাজ করেন, বাংলার সাধারণ চাষীদের সুবিধা ও উন্নতির জন্য করেন না এবং ভবিষ্যতে কোরবেন বোলেও আমার মনে হয় না। আর সবচেয়ে বেশী প্রয়োজনীয় কথা Demonstration গভর্ণমেণ্টের নিজের ১৯৩৮-৩৯ সালের report এও একথা দেখতে পাই। যা কিছু Demonstration হয় তা কালিম্পং ও দর্জিলিঙ্গের Farm এ। এতে বিশেষ উপকার হয় না কেন না, এই সব Demonstration গুলিতে বেশী লোক যায় না। সুতরাং ঐ সকল Demonstration গুলি বাংলার সমতল ভূমিতে উদ্যোগী চাষীদের সাহায্য কোরলে বেশী উপকার হোত। প্রত্যেক মহকুমায় এক একটি কৃষি সমিতি গঠন কোরে ঐ সমিতির উদ্যোগে প্রত্যেক Union এ চাষীদের সামনে demonstration এর ব্যবস্থা কোর্ত্তে হবে। এই সব demonstration এর ভিতর দিয়ে চাষীরা তাদের দোষক্রটি বুঝতে পারবে।

তারপর গোরক্ষণের ব্যবস্থা। কতকগুলি Stud Bulls ভারত গভর্ণমেণ্ট জেলায় জেলায় দিয়েছেন বটে, কিন্তু শুধু তার দ্বারা যে আমাদের দেশে ভাল গরু উৎপন্ন হতে পারে বলে আমার মনে হয় না। নোয়াখালি জেলায় এ সকল stud bull মরে গেল, না খেতে পেয়ে, আর হুগলী প্রভৃতি জেলাতে Union Boardএর Presidentরা এই সব stud bulls গুলিকে নিজেদের কাজে লাগান। তা ছাড়া এই সব stud bull দ্বারা বাংলাদেশের চাষীদের গরুর কোন উন্নতি হোতে পারে না। বর্ত্তমানে বাংলাদেশে যে ভীষণ গোমড়ক দেখা যাচ্ছে সেই মড়ক হইতে বাংলাদেশের চাষীকুলের গবাদি পশুর রক্ষা অতি সত্বর প্রয়োজন। বাংলার অনেক স্থানে চাষের জন্য গরুর অভাব হোচ্ছে। কবে stud bull গুলি ঐ অভাব পূরণ কোর্ব্বে সেই আশায় কি চাষীরা লাঙ্গল গুটিয়ে বসে থাকবে? বর্ত্তমানে বিহার ও উড়িষ্যা হইতে বহু গো-মহিষ আমাদের দেশে আমদানি হোচেছ, কিন্তু ঐসব গো-মহিষ আমাদের দেশে এসেই অসুখে পড়ে এবং চিকিৎসার অভাবে মারা যায়। প্রতি জেলায় মাত্র গো-চিকিৎসক একজন আছেন এবং তাঁকেও ডাকাডাকি করেও অনেক সময় পাওয়া যায় না। আবার যখন এসে হাজির হন তখন হয়তো গরু-মহিষ মরে শেষ হোয়ে যায়। কাজেই বাংলাদেশের চাষীর এক মাত্র সম্বল যে গরু-মহিষ সেগুলিও মরে যাচ্ছে চিকিৎসার অভাবে। অবিলম্বে প্রত্যেক থানায় গো-চিকিৎসার ব্যবস্থা না কোরলে কৃষিকার্য্য কোরে কৃষকদের জীবনধারণ করা অসম্ভব হোয়ে পড়বে। আর একটা কথা, উৎপন্ন ফসলের ও চাষের

জমির Statistics গভর্ণমেণ্ট যেভাবে তৈরী করেন, Paddy land and other Agricultural products ও Paddy rice সম্বন্ধে যে ভাবে Statistics সংগ্রহ করেন তা আমি জানি। এই সব Statistics গুলি সাধারণতঃ চৌকিদারদের report এর উপর ভিত্তি কোরে তৈরী হয়। এই সকল চৌকিদারদের মধ্যে অনেকেই নিরক্ষর। তারা তাদের নিজেদের ইচ্ছামত যা তা সংবাদ দেয় এবং সেইমত কাজ হয়। এই সমস্ত statistics গুলি যাতে সঠিকভাবে তৈরী হয় তাহার চেষ্টা করা উচিত। এই সব Statistics সম্বন্ধে Government এর Land Revenue Committee তীব্র নিন্দা কোরেছেন। Royal Commission on Agriculture এই Statistics সম্বন্ধে বোলেছেন "Not infrequently demonstrably absurd guesses" পাঞ্জাব গভর্ণমেণ্ট বাংলা সরকারের তুলায় Statistics সম্বন্ধে তীব্র মন্তব্য করেছেন। বাংলা সরকারও Statistics তৈরী করবার জন্য বিশেষ যত্ন নেন নি। অবিলম্বে বৈজ্ঞানিক মতে বিশ্বাসযোগ্য ভাবে বাংলা দেশের চাষের জমির পরিমাণ ও তাহার-উৎপন্ন ফসলের Statistics তৈয়ারী করা দরকার।

আরও অনেক বক্তা রোয়েছেন। আমি আর বেশী কিছু বোলবো না। বর্ত্তমান Budget এ দেখছি যে এই বিভাগের ব্যয় বরাদ্দ কিছু বেড়েছে, কিন্তু কাজের কিছুই পরিবর্ত্তন হয় নাই। কাজেই বাজেটে টাকার হ্রাসবৃদ্ধির সাথে সাথে মন্ত্রী মহাশয়কে আমার অনুরোধ যে, তিনি যেন এই টাকার সদ্ব্যবহার করেন। তা'হলে বাংলার কৃষককুল বুঝতে পারবে যে, তাদের জন্য গভর্ণমেণ্ট একটা বিভাগ রেখেছেন যার দ্বারা তাদের অনেক উপকার সাধিত হয়। এই কৃষকসাধারণের উন্নতির পথ পরিষ্কার হোলে টাকার জন্য ক্রন্দন কোরতে হবে না।

সর্ব্বশেষে আমি অন্যান্য দেশে যা দু-একটা কাজ হোয়েছে সে সম্বন্ধে কিছু বোলতে চাই। U. P. তে যেখানে আমাদের দেশের মত প্রাকৃতিক সেচের ব্যবস্থা নেই, যেখানে নল-কূপ, কূপ ইত্যাদির দ্বারা সেচের কাজ হয়, সেখানেও জনসাধারণের মধ্যে বীজ বিতরণের জন্য প্রায় ৬০০ বীজ রাখবার Store স্থাপিত হোয়েছে এবং ঐ দেশের ২০,০০০ গ্রামে বীজ বিতরণ করা হোচ্ছে। জনসাধারণের মধ্যে গবেষণার কাজ চালানর জন্য পল্লী-সংগঠন সমিতি স্থাপন কোরেছেন এবং এর জন্য ১৯৪০ সালে তাঁরা তিন লক্ষ টাকা তাঁদের বাজেটে বরাদ্দ কোরেছেন। ইহা ছাড়া কৃষির বিষয়ে আরও কিছু করেছেন। U. P. Government কৃষিকার্য্যের উন্নতির জন্য যে ব্যবস্থা কোরেছেন আমি বাংলার মন্ত্রীমণ্ডলীকে সেইরূপ ব্যবস্থা কোর্ত্তে অনুরোধ করি। তারপর Government যে Rice and Paddy Enquiry Committee এবং Land Revenue Commission নিযুক্ত কোরেছিলেন উক্ত Commission দুইটি কৃষি ও কৃষকদের উন্নতির জন্য যে সকল উপায় নির্দ্ধারণ করিয়া সুপারিশ কোরেছেন সেই সুপারিশগুলি কার্য্যে পরিণত করবার জন্য অবিলম্বে আইন প্রণয়ন করা বিশেষ প্রয়োজন।

Mr. KHAGENDRA NATH DAS GUPTA: Sir, I rise to support the motion moved by my honourable friend Mr. Sasanka Sekhar Sanyal.

Sir, I hope that the whole House will agree with me when I say that the agricultural policy of the existing Cabinet in our province has been tried for full four years and from the very beginning of its tenure of office it has been characterised by a total lack of vision and courage without a comprehensive plan of agricultural uplift. There is hardly any hope of permanent benefits accruing to the peasantry, for agriculture, of all occupations, is affected by uncertainities of nature which can only be successfully combated by the entire energy of the State.

It passes my comprehension to understand how a Government which calls itself democratic and propeasants, "प्रजाहितैषी," could be satisfied with half-hearted measures for a department of public life, which in the condition of India, and of our province, may be described without much exaggeration, as the pivot of the entire public life. As agricultural prosperity means prosperity for all classes of the community, peasants, traders, manufacturers and the Government of our province, it should once for all be accepted as the first principle of public finance, in Bengal, that the entire budget year after year should be framed with a view to the maximum practicable development of economic resources of the province which, as I have already noted, must necessarily be connected directly or indirectly with the question of agricultural uplift. Quesnay's famous dictum "Pave Paysano pauvre royoumme" (Poverty of the peasants means the poverty of the exchequer) should be grasped in all its implications by every gentleman who may be in charge of the agricultural portfolio, specially by the Chief Minister and the Finance Minister who are largely responsible for the general policy of the Cabinet.

A perusal of the budget grant now before the House is sufficient to convince all non-party public-spirited people that the Bengal Cabinet has gone to sleep over the magic gourd yard of our Hon'ble Chief Minister Mr. Fazlul Huq. I do not know what family relations there are between gourds and goats, for, a sum of Rs. 20,000 to be spent upon goats' buildings involving another sum of Rs. 3,789 is expected by the Hon'ble Minister to show the path of salvation to the distressed peasants.

A vegeterian may well be afraid that the combined flaying demonstration and grading party in Bengal furnished with a sum of Rs. 3,872 will purchase all the goats on the fields at Rs 3,789 and flay them alive for hungry stomachs.

It is suggested that the country will prosper, if about Rs. 15,561 can be spent on establishment of 91 union board farms, *i.e.*, Rs. 171 for each farm, as all mathematicians know one ounce of oil given to the sea, means an addition of whatever effect, on the diminution of the sea's turbulance.

If we exclude from the agricultural budget about Rs. 27,35,700 provided for the regulation of jute crop, upon which much has already been said from this side of the House, we find that the major portion of this grant will be spent in maintaining large establishment. Only a lean balance remains to bolster up a few farms and demonstration centres here and there. Such half-hearted measures on the part of a public institution are the worst crimes that can be inflicted on society, specially in a country where the people being backward naturally expect much from Government initiative

The attempts of the Government to be helpful to the Projas of Bengal, however well intentioned, will fail and may even prove disastrous, unless it succeeds in improving the productive power of the tillers of the soil. Debt settlement boards without wealth-producing boards in the rural areas are palliatives which may be compared to an attempt to flatten a tin disc by rough hammer strokes.

Development of agriculture is impossible on a purely voluntary basis, as is proved by experience in all countries. Direct participation by the State in farming is necessary even for the growth of collective co-operative societies and for their chances of success.

This participation is possible even without a social revolution and is indispensable to combat the evils of subdivision and fragmentation of holdings. It may be summarised as a determined attempt on the part of the Government of Bengal to float joint stock farming and agri-industrial companies in all union board areas of Bengal. In other words, union board areas are to be turned into economic development units with the formation of union economic boards The functions of these boards would be to introduce, supervise and develop collective or joint-stock farming and joint-stock industries, specially in the direction of foodstuff cultivation and manufacture. There should be subdivisional and district societies mainly financial and industrial and for collective purchase of agricultural requirements and similar sale of agricultural commodities. These societies may be floated as joint-stock companies, part of the capital being subscribed by the Provincial Government. Industrial researches, carried on the basis of a district, may be utilised for the development of district industries which can draw largely upon district raw materials. For example, maize-growing, paste-board industries and milk industries are inter-allied and may develop in those districts which have large areas of highland. Joint-stock fishery may be developed on large scale in Lower Bengal, specially in areas where there is no effective substitute for jute. Excavation by tractors and scrapers may be an economic proposition and the raised embarkments may be widened for purposes of poultry, ducks, goats, sheep and cattle, while portion of the earth may be utilised for co-operative brick-fields.

As an immediate programme, let there be 27 co-operative economic units in the twenty-seven districts of Bengal. The village by the side of the district agricultural farm may be selected for economic experiment. The capital in kind for these societies is to be supplied by the village members of the society mainly by changing rights to land into ownership of shares of the society and in cash to be supplied by the Government. Experience of the co-operative farming at Jehangirpur in the district of Nadia shows that a total cash capital investment of Rs. 25,000 may carry the society to success, and the capitalist and adventurer Government may reasonably expect a good rate of return year after year. Mechanisation of farming with tractor, plough, harrow, pumps, etc., and a village small scale factory for rice-hulling and milling and maize and wheat-crushing, etc., will consume about Rs. 15,000, and Rs. 10,000 will remain as liquid capital and may be returned after harvesting is over and the crops are sold.

Mere expenditure on agricultural and dairy researches and the publication of pamphlets which cannot be understood by illiterate peasants will not secure the purposes for which a sympathetic Government ought to maintain the Agricultural Department. This department to be of any significance must henceforth be divided into two equally important sections, one for scientific research and the other for direct organisation of collective, co-operative or joint-stock farming. Once for all, we must discard the notion that co-operation without economic planning and direct participation of the State in farming has got any future in the peculiarly baffling environment of an ignorance-ridden and poverty-stricken peasantry.

Problems of consolidation of holdings may be solved on the lines of the Jehangirpur Co-operative Farm in the district of Nadia If additional difficulties present themselves in other districts, the Government, by a direct participation in framing alone can get the true clue to a sound reform of land tenures. If at that stage, certain obstacles in the way of joint-stock village farms are found to be insurmountable, and if the removal of these becomes a direct condition of the village community's welfare, the State, by the exercise of its right of pre-eminent domain, can come to the rescue of society.

The total capital outlay on these village experiments for the province would be about Rs. 6,75,000 only. This sum should be provided for in the agricultural budget which has got prospects of earning income for the poor peasants, for distressed middle class and, finally, for the Government exchequer itself, and like the Government of the Punjab, which, according to the information given by Mr. Darling, is getting an annual net profit of over 2 crores a year, a return on capital at 27 per cent. by participation in agriculture. The Government of Bengal in no time may expect a similarly lucrative rate of return—specially as

the Bengal market is one of the largest in India for tinned milk, *ghee*, butter, mustard oil and other food products and necessities of daily life.

Organised production in rural surroundings, in harmony with consumption in towns and cities of Bengal, has tremendous potentialities, and a Government which wants to rise above mere platitudes of rural development and Proja welfare, must immediately as well as ultimately find to its satisfaction that it has gained everything and lost nothing by courageously laying down the foundations of Indian economics.

Mr. JOGENDRA NATH MANDAL: Mr. Speaker, Sir, শ্রীযুক্ত শশাঙ্ক শেখর সান্যাল মহাশয়ের প্রস্তাব সমর্থনে আজ আমি আমার বক্তব্য একটী বিষয়ে বিশেষভাবে সীমাবদ্ধ রাখতে চাই। আজ অবেগময়ী ভাষায় বক্তৃতা দ্বারা আমি মন্ত্রিমণ্ডলীর সমালোচনা কোরবো না, কৃষিমন্ত্রী মহোদয় এবং প্রধান মন্ত্রী সাহেবের সমালোচনা কোরবো না, এবং সরকারী কৃষি-বিভাগেরও সমালোচনা কোরবো না, শুধু এমন কতকগুলি বিষয় আলোচনা কোরতে চাই, যেমন ১৯৪০ সালের বঙ্গীয় জুট রেগুলেশন্ আইন প্রবর্ত্তনের ফলে যে কতকগুলি সমস্যার উদ্ভব হইয়াছে এবং যে সমস্যা বা যে বিষয়গুলি মন্ত্রিমণ্ডলীর দৃষ্টি আকর্ষণ করিতে পারে নাই এবং বুর্জোয়া বা পেটি-বুর্জোয়া এম, এল, এদের দৃষ্টি পথেও পড়ে নাই, এবং যাহারা জনসাধারণের প্রতিনিধি বলিয়া দাবী করেন অথচ প্রকৃত জনসাধারণের প্রতিনিধি নয় তাহাদেরও দৃষ্টি পড়ে নাই, এমন কতকগুলি বিষয় আমি সমালোচনা কোরবো। তাই বাংলা ভাষায় আমার বক্তব্য লিপিবদ্ধ কোরেছি।

১৯৪০ সনের জুট রেগুলেশন্ আইন প্রবর্ত্তনের উদ্দেশ্য সম্বন্ধে গভর্ণমেণ্ট বলিয়াছেন যে, পাট-চাষীদের স্বার্থের জন্য এই ব্যবস্থা করা হইতেছে। এক্ষণে আমাদের বিবেচ্য ও আলোচ্য বিষয় এই যে উক্ত আইনের ফলে পাট চাষীদের স্বার্থ প্রকৃত রক্ষিত হইবে, না ক্ষুন্ন করা হইবে। আমি এই আইন সম্পর্কে গভীরভাবে চিন্তা করিয়া দেখিয়াছি। পাট-চাষীদের সহিত আমি ঘনিষ্ঠভাবে সংশ্লিষ্ট। তাহাদের অভাব অভিযোগ ও পাট-চাষ সম্পর্কে সুবিধা-অসুবিধার বিষয় আমি সম্যক অবগত থাকায় এই আইনের কার্য্যকারীতা পাট-চাষীদের স্বার্থের অনুকূল কিম্বা প্রতিকূল হইবে তাহা বিচার ও প্রত্যক্ষ করিবার আমার যেরূপ সুযোগ ও সুবিধা আছে বাংলার আলালের ঘরের দুলাল মন্ত্রীমণ্ডলীর যে সেরূপ নাই ইহা নিঃসঙ্কোচে বলা যাইতে পারে।

পাটের নিম্নতম মূল্য নির্দ্ধারণ ও তৎসম্পর্কিত পরিকল্পনা গ্রহণ করিবার পূর্ব্বেই পাট-চাষ নিয়ন্ত্রণ আইন প্রবর্ত্তনের ফলে পাট-চাষীদের উপকারের পরিবর্ত্তে অপকারই বেশী হইবে। বিন্দুমাত্র অতিরিক্ত সুবিধা প্রদান না করিয়া এই আইন দ্বারা পাট-চাষীদের স্বাধীনতা খর্ব্ব করা হইল।

প্রথমতঃ পূর্ব্বের এক তৃতীয়াংশের অধিক পাট কৃষক উৎপন্ন করিতে পারিবে না, কিন্তু, ইহার উপযুক্ত মূল্য পাওয়ার জন্য তাহাকে সম্পূর্ণ নির্ভর করিতে হইবে পাট-ব্যবসায়ী ও কলওয়ালাগণের উপর। দ্বিতীয়তঃ বহুস্থানে কৃষকের পাটচাষোপযোগী এমন সব জমি আছে এবং যাহা ১৯৪০ সালে রেকর্ড করা হইয়াছে তাহা বর্ত্তমানে পাট

ভিন্ন অন্য কোন ফসল উৎপন্নের উপযোগী নহে। এ সব ক্ষেত্রে যে দুই তৃতীয়াংশ জমি পাট-চাষের বহির্ভূত হইবে তাহাতে অন্য ফসল উৎপাদনের কোন ব্যবস্থাই গভর্ণমেণ্ট করেন নাই। পাট-চাষীকে তন্মধ্যে কোন নির্দ্দেশও দেওয়া হয় নাই, এমন কি ঐ সব জমিতে অন্য ফসল উৎপন্ন করিতে কৃষকের যদি অতিরিক্ত খরচ ও আসবাব পত্রের প্রয়োজন হয় (এবং অবশ্যই তাহা হইবে) তবে তাহা সঙ্কুলানের জন্য কৃষককে কোনরূপ সুবিধা প্রদানের বিষয়ই চিন্তা করা হয় নাই। সুতরাং কৃষকগণের উক্ত দুই তৃতীয়াংশ জমি অনেক ক্ষেত্রে অনাবাদী যাইবে এবং বহুস্থানে খুব সামান্য লাভজনক ফসল উৎপন্ন করিয়াই কৃষকগণকে সন্তুষ্ট থাকিতে হইবে। এইরূপে পাট-চাষীর অবস্থার উন্নতির পরিবর্ত্তে অবনতিই সংঘটিত হইবে। তৃতীয়তঃ বাংলার কৃষকের কৃষিকার্য্যের নিমিত্ত প্রকৃতির উপর সম্পূর্ণ নির্ভর করিতে হয় বলিয়া তাহার যে সব জমিতে পাট-চাষ করিবার ইচ্ছা থাকে অতিবৃষ্টি, অনাবৃষ্টি বা যথা সময়ে বৃষ্টির অভাবে সেইসব জমিতেও পাট-চাষ করিতে পারে না। এমতাবস্থায় লাইসেন্সে লিখিত জমি ব্যতীত অন্য জমিতে কৃষক যদি পাট-চাষ করিতে না পারে তবে তাহার অসুবিধার সীমা থাকিবে না। এমন কি অনেক সময় তাহাকে বাধ্য হইয়া লাইসেন্সে লিখিত পরিমাণ অপেক্ষা কম পরিমাণ জমিতে পাট-চাষ করিতে হইবে। বিষয়টী একটু সরল ও বিস্তৃতভাবে বলা প্রয়োজন। মনে করুন জনৈক কৃষকের ক, খ, গ তিন মৌজার সমানায়তন নয় প্লট্ জমিতে ১৯৪০ সালে পাটের চাষ হইত এবং ঐ সনে উহা পাটের জমি বলিয়া রেকর্ড হইয়াছে। এখন নূতন আইন অনুসারে তাহাকে উক্ত মৌজা সমূহে মাত্র তিন প্লট্ জমিতে পাট চাষ করিতে হইবে এবং সম্ভবতঃ তিন মৌজায় তিন প্লট্ অর্থাৎ প্রত্যেক মৌজায় এক প্লট্ জমিতে পাট-চাষ করিতে হইবে। সাধারণতঃ এ দেশের কৃষকদের জমিগুলি একলপ্তে বা এক স্থানে থাকে না বলিয়া একখানা জমি হইতে অপর একখানা জমির দূরত্ব সচরাচর আধ মাইল হইতে এক মাইল, দেড় মাইল পর্য্যন্ত হইয়া থাকে এবং সব জমি সমান উচু কিম্বা নীচু না হওয়ায় একই সময় চাষের উপযোগী হয় না এবং সমান উর্ব্বর থাকে না। সুতরাং উক্ত কৃষক তিন মৌজায় অবস্থিত তিনখানা জমিতে এক সময় পাট-চাষ করিতে পারিবে না। সময় মত বৃষ্টির অভাবে বা অতি বৃষ্টির ফলে হয়ত ঐ তিনখানা জমিতে আদৌ পাট-চাষ করা গেল না, অতিরিক্ত বৃষ্টি হইল অথবা এমন সময় বৃষ্টি হইল যাহাতে লাইসেন্স লিখিত জমি চাষের অনুপযোগী হইয়া পড়িল। সে ক্ষেত্রে উক্ত কৃষক, আইনতঃ পাট-চাষের যে সামান্য সুবিধা পাইয়াছিল তাহা হইতেও বঞ্চিত হইবে। কারণ লাইসেন্সে লিখিত জমি ব্যতীত অন্য জমিতে পাট-চাষ করা দণ্ডনীয় বলিয়া প্রাকৃতিক কারণে পাট-চাষের উপযোগী ঐ সব জমিতে পাট-চাষের সুবিধা হইলেও কৃষক উহাতে পাট-চাষ করিতে পারিবে না। এইরূপে পাট-চাষ হইতে বঞ্চিত হইয়া কৃষকগণকে অতিশয় ক্ষতিগ্রস্ত হইতে হইবে। অথচ বাংলা দেশে পাট ভিন্ন অন্য এমন কোন ফসলই কৃষকের ক্ষেতে জন্মে না যাহা দ্বারা সে বাংলার তথা ভারতের বাহির হইতে টাকা আনিতে পারে। আর পাট জন্মে এমন সব অঞ্চলে পাটের টাকা দ্বারাই কৃষক জমিদারের খাজনা ও মহাজনের ঋণ পরিশোধ করে, প্রয়োজনীয় বস্ত্রাদি ক্রয় করে, রোগীর চিকিৎসা করে—এমন কি তৈল, লবণ ইত্যাদি তৈজসপত্র ক্রয় করিয়া থাকে। এমতাবস্থায় পাট-চাষ নিয়ন্ত্রণের ফলে কৃষকগণের অতিশয় আর্থিক অনটন ঘটিবে।

অবশ্য যদি অল্প পাট উৎপন্ন করিয়া সে অধিক অর্থ পাইত তবে এ আশঙ্কার কারণ ছিল না। কিন্তু পাটের পূর্ব্বাপেক্ষা অধিক মূল্য পাওয়ার বিন্দুমাত্র আশা করা যায় না। পাট-চাষ নিয়ন্ত্রণ বা কম পরিমাণ পাট উৎপাদনের ফলে পাটের উচ্চ মূল্য পাওয়ার যুক্তি অসার বলিয়া মনে হয়। ১৯৩৮ সালে শতকরা ২৫ ভাগ পাট কম উৎপন্ন হওয়া সত্ত্বেও পাটের মূল্য বর্দ্ধিত হয় নাই। গভর্ণমেণ্ট নিযুক্ত পাট তদন্ত কমিটি তাহাদের সুপারিসে বলিয়াছেন যে, পাট নিয়ন্ত্রণের সঙ্গে হাট বাজারে পাট বিক্রয় ব্যবস্থার উন্নতি করিতে হইবে এবং পাটের নিম্নতম মূল্য নির্দ্ধারণ করত: এবং সর্ব্বত্র ওজন সাম্যের একটী মাপ বাঁধিয়া দিতে হইবে। এতদ্ব্যতীত কৃষকগণ যাহাতে পাট ধরিয়া রাখিতে পারে তাহার ব্যবস্থা করিতে হইবে—তবেই পাটের মূল্য বাড়িবে, কেবলমাত্র উৎপাদন নিয়ন্ত্রণের দ্বারা পাটের মূল্য বর্দ্ধিত হইতে পারে না। বর্ত্তমান ব্যবস্থায় গভর্ণমেণ্টের নীতির উপর পাটের মূল্য বিন্দুমাত্র নির্ভর করে না। নির্ভর করে জুট মিল এসোসিয়েসনের মর্জ্জির উপর। এসোসিয়েসন্ পাট ব্যবসায়ীগণকে যেরূপ নির্দ্দেশ দেয় তাহারা পাট-চাষীকে তদ্রূপ মূল্য দিয়া থাকে। অধুনা কলওয়ালাগণ অধিকতর সংঘবদ্ধ হওয়ার ফলে তাহারা গভর্ণমেণ্টকে বৃদ্ধাঙ্গুষ্ঠ প্রদর্শন করিতে বিন্দুমাত্র দ্বিধা বা সঙ্কোচ অনুভব করিতেছে না। পাটের জমি রেকর্ড হওয়ার ফলে কোন্ বৎসর কত পাট হইবে না হইবে পাট ব্যবসায়ী ও কলওয়ালাগণ পূর্ব্বেই তাহা সঠিক নির্দ্ধারণ করিতে পারিবে এবং তাহারা তাহাদের ইচ্ছামত দর কৃষককে দিবে কারণ ব্যবসায়িগণ বাংলার পাট-চাষীর নি:সহায় অবস্থার কথা সম্যক অবগত আছে, পাট-চাষী যেকোন মূল্যে পাট বিক্রয় করিতে বাধ্য হইবে এবং পাট বেশী দিন ধরিয়া রাখিতে পারিবে না তাহা ব্যবসায়িগণ বিশেষভাবে জানে।

পাট নিয়ন্ত্রণ আইনের ফলে পাট-চাষীর মনে কিরূপ গভীর সন্ত্রাসের সৃষ্টি হইয়াছে তাহা মন্ত্রীমণ্ডল কিম্বা তাহাদের অন্ধ সমর্থকগণ কতদূর অবগত আছেন জানি না। কিছু-দিন পূর্ব্বে মফ:স্বলে ভ্রমণ কালীন, বরিশাল, ফরিদপুর ও খুলনা জিলার হিন্দু-মুসলমান কৃষক সম্প্রদায়ের বহু বিশিষ্ট ব্যক্তির সহিত আমার সাক্ষাৎ আলাপ-আলোচনা হইয়াছে। তাহাদের শতকরা ৯০ জনই হক মন্ত্রীমণ্ডলীর সমর্থক, কিন্তু, পূর্ব্বের এক তৃতীয়াংশ জমিতে পাট-চাষ করিতে হইবে, গভর্ণমেণ্টের এই আইন প্রবর্ত্তনের ফলে তাহাদের মনে ভীষণ আতঙ্কের সৃষ্টি হইয়াছে এবং "অবশেষে হক সাহেব একী করিলেন" বলিয়া হা হুতাশ করিতেছে।

বাংলার কৃষকের এই শঙ্কিত অবস্থার প্রতি আমি প্রধান মন্ত্রী মাননীয় হক সাহেব এবং কৃষি মন্ত্রী মাননীয় তমিজুদ্দিন সাহেবের দৃষ্টি আকর্ষণ করিতেছি এবং তাঁহাদিগকে সনির্ব্বন্ধ অনুরোধ করিতেছি তাঁহারা যেন প্রকৃত অবস্থানভিজ্ঞ ব্যক্তিদের পরামর্শে পাট-চাষ নিয়ন্ত্রণ আইন প্রবর্ত্তনের দ্বারা কৃষকের দুর্দ্দশা বর্দ্ধিত না করিয়া পাটের নিম্নতম মূল্য নির্দ্ধারণ করত: তাহাদের ডালভাতের ব্যবস্থা করেন। পাটের নিম্নতম মূল্য নির্দ্ধারণের প্রশ্ন উত্থাপিত হওয়া মাত্রই মন্ত্রীমণ্ডল এই যুক্তি প্রদর্শন করেন যে, আসাম ও বিহার প্রদেশ তাঁহাদের কার্য্যে সহযোগিতা না করিতে পারে। কিন্তু পাট-চাষ নিয়ন্ত্রণ আইন পাশ করিবার বেলায় সে কথা তাঁহাদের মনে আদৌ আসে নাই। আজ যদি আসাম ও বিহার এই সুযোগে তিন চারিগুণ অধিক পাট উৎপন্ন করে তবে বাংলা গভর্ণমেণ্টের এই নীতি কোথায় টিকিবে?

পরিশেষে মন্ত্রীমণ্ডলীর সহানুভূতিপূর্ণ দৃষ্টি এই বিষয় আকর্ষণ করিতে চাই যে Jute Regulation departmentএর পাটের জমি রেকর্ডিং কার্য্য যথা-নিয়মে ও যোগ্যতার সহিত সম্পন্ন না হওয়ায় আইনের ধারাগুলি পাট-চাষীদের নিকট অধিকতর পীড়াদায়ক হইয়াছে। অতি অল্প সময়ের মধ্যে এই ব্যাপক কার্য্য সুসম্পন্ন হইতে পারে না। গত বৎসর কয়েক লক্ষ টাকা ব্যয়ে পাটের জমি রেকর্ডিং প্রায় নিরর্থক হইয়াছে, এ বৎসরেও প্রায় তদ্রূপই ঘটিবে। কতকগুলি অযোগ্য ও দায়ীত্বজ্ঞানহীন কর্ম্মচারী কৃতকার্য্যতার পথে অন্তরায় হইতেছে। জমি রেকর্ডিং এ ভুল ভ্রান্তির সীমা নাই। কত মৌজায় যে একদম রেকর্ডিং হয় নাই তাহার ইয়ত্তা নাই। বরিশাল জেলাস্থ গৌরনদী থানার উত্তরাংশ এবং ফরিদপুর জিলার কালদিনি থানার দক্ষিণ পশ্চিমাংসে বিগত যে মাসে অস্বাভাবিক শীলাবৃষ্টি হওয়ায় চারা পাট সম্পূর্ণরূপে নষ্ট হওয়ার ফলে ঐ অঞ্চলের পাটের জমি প্রায়ই রেকর্ড করা হয় নাই। এ বিষয়ে বহু পূর্ব্বেই বরিশাল জেলা ম্যাজিষ্ট্রেটের নিকট জানান হইয়াছে। বরিশালের Chief Inspectorটির অযোগ্যতার কথা উল্লেখ করিয়া আর সময় নষ্ট করিতে চাই না। পাটের জমি রেকর্ডিংএর জন্য যে সব Assistant Licensing Officers নিযুক্ত হইয়াছে এবং Union Jute Committee যেরূপ ভাবে গঠিত হইয়াছে তাহাতে একথা নিঃসন্দেহে বলা যাইতে পারে যে, পাট নিয়ন্ত্রণ আইন সম্পূর্ণরূপে ব্যার্থতায় পর্য্যবসিত হইবে।

মিঃ স্পীকার সার, আজ বাংলার নিরন্ন চাষীদের হাহাকারে আকাশ বাতাস কম্পিত হইয়া উঠিতেছে। আজ আমাদের মন্ত্রীগণ এবং পরিষদের সদস্যগণ যদি শুধু sentimentএর দ্বারা guided হইয়া এবং দেশের প্রকৃত অবস্থা সম্পর্কে অনভিজ্ঞতা সত্বেও কতকগুলি আইন পাশ করিয়া আজ বাংলার কৃষকের স্বার্থে এমন নির্ম্মম ভাবে আঘাত করেন তবে, তাঁরা তাঁদের কার্য্যের কি কৈফিয়ৎ দিবেন তাহা আমি জানি না। অবশ্য তাঁরা যে উদ্দেশ্য লইয়া আইন প্রবর্ত্তন করিয়াছিলেন, সে উদ্দেশ্য ভাল হইতে পারে, কিন্তু এত অল্প সময়ের মধ্যে যে recordingএ ভুল হইতে পারে একথা তাঁহাদের স্মরণ রাখা উচিত ছিল।

তারপর, এই টাকার জন্য আমরা grudge করি না; পাটের মূল্য বর্দ্ধিত করার জন্য বাংলাদেশ থেকে যদি দশ লক্ষ কেন, পঞ্চাশ লক্ষ টাকা ব্যয়িত হয় তাহা হইলেও ইহা বাংলার পক্ষে অধিক হইবে না। কারণ যেখানে প্রতি বৎসর ৭০ হইতে ৮০ কোটী টাকা পাট বিক্রয় করিয়া ভারতের বাহির হইতে আসে, সেখানে ব্যবসার জন্য যদি গভর্ণমেণ্টের পঞ্চাশ লক্ষ টাকা খরচ হয়, তাহা অস্বাভাবিক নহে। আমার আবেদন হইতেছে তাঁহাদের নিকট তাঁহারা যেন বুঝিয়া সুঝিয়া কার্য্য করেন। কেবল মাত্র theoretical ভাবে কার্য্য করিয়া আমাদের দেশের সমস্যাগুলি সমাধান করিতে না যাইয়া, যাঁহারা বিজ্ঞ হাতে-কলমে কার্য্য করেন তাঁহাদের সহিত যেন পরামর্শ করেন। শুধু তাঁহাদের সমর্থক দলকে লইয়া Committee গঠন করার কোনই স্বার্থকতা থাকিতে পারে না। আমি কৃষি মন্ত্রী মহোদয়কে বিশেষভাবে অনুরোধ জানাইতেছি যে, যে কার্য্য আপনারা করিতেছেন তাহা খুব সহজ নহে, এবং এমনি করিয়া কোটী কোটী কৃষকের স্বার্থ লইয়া যদি আপনারা

ছিনিমিনি খেলেন কৃষকরা আর বেশী দিন তাহা সহ্য করিবে না এবং এমন বিদ্রোহের অনল জ্বলিয়া উঠিবে যে তাহা আর সহজে নিভিবে না। মন্ত্রীমণ্ডলী এবং তাঁহার সমর্থকগণ অন্ধের মতন প্রকৃত অবস্থা সম্বন্ধে অবগত না হইয়া এবং একটা বিষয়ে ভালমন্দ বিবেচনা বা আলোচনা না করিয়া কিরূপে এইরূপ কঠিন ও দায়ীত্বপূর্ণ কার্য্যে হস্তক্ষেপ করিতে পারেন? তাই আমার অনুরোধ মন্ত্রীমণ্ডলীর নিকট তাঁরা এই বিষয়ে গভীর ভাবে চিন্তা করুন। আমার বিশ্বাস তাঁরাও জানেন যে, তাঁদের কার্য্যকলাপের দ্বারা আজ কৃষকরা কত সন্ত্রস্ত হইয়া উঠিয়াছে। তাহাদের বোঝান হইতেছে—পাট বেশী উৎপন্ন করিলে বেশী মূল্য পাওয়া যাইবে না। কিন্তু, প্রকৃতপক্ষে পাটের মূল্য উৎপন্ন পাটের উপর নির্ভর করে না। ইহা একটী fundamental Economic principle যে price of a commodity is not governed either by demand or supply but is governed by the condition of both demand and supply কাজেই demand এবং supplyএর দিক দিয়া দেখিতে হইবে—যদি supply short করেন আর demand না থাকে তাহা হইলে প্রকৃত উপকার কিছুই হইবে না। সেইজন্য এই বিষয়ে, বিশেষভাবে আলোচনা করিয়া, ইহার ভালমন্দ কি আছে কৃষকদের প্রতিনিধিদের কাছ হইতে শুনিয়া, তাহার পর যদি মন্ত্রীমণ্ডলী নিজদিগকে কৃষক দরদী বলিয়া মনে করেন তাহা হইলে সেই ভাবে আইন প্রণয়ন করুন।

Mr. BANKU BEHARI MANDAL: Sir, I wish to draw the attention of Government regarding the fixation of the price of paddy. Paddy is as valuable a crop to the cultivators of Western Bengal as jute is to the cultivators of Eastern Bengal. The cultivators and most of the middle class people of Western Bengal have to depend mainly on paddy. In some of the districts, viz., Bankura, Burdwan, Birbhum and Midnapore, the only single crop grown in a year is paddy. The soil of these districts is hard and sandy, and for want of sufficient water it is difficult to grow any other crop there. Besides lands in canal areas, the cultivators elsewhere do not generally get their full quota of paddy in any year due either to floods or to drought. After deducting the cost of cultivation and the amount of rent to be paid to the landlord, there remains hardly anything for the cultivator for the maintenance of himself and his family. This is due to the very low price of paddy, and if the Government want to save the poor cultivators and the middle class people, they must fix a minimum price for paddy, and as the importation of Rangoon rice affects the price of Bengal paddy, Government should impose a heavy duty on imported rice. Some of the members of the Paddy Committee have stated that a rise in the price of paddy will benefit the majority of paddy cultivators. Of course, we are not in favour of an excessive rise in the price of paddy. Every body including the Hon'ble Ministers will admit that he has noticed with pain and regret that the current price of paddy is not sufficient to cover the cost of production even, viz., capital outlay, cost of labour and the amount of rent, and it is imperative on the part of Government

to see that the paddy cultivators are raised from the helpless position in which they have been placed. If a fair price is fixed for paddy, it will give them some margin of profit after meeting the cost of cultivation and the payment of rents. Sir, Government have been spending every year lakhs and lakhs of rupees on jute, but they are paying no heed to paddy. The prevailing low price of paddy is a problem that must be tackled immediately, although I admit that there is some difficulty in doing it, and that there are complex questions in that connection, but that must first be solved. I would appeal to Government to make their best endeavour to solve this problem by taking such steps as Government think advisable so that the paddy grower may at least get Rs. 2-8 per maund of paddy he produces.

Mr. SYED AHMED KHAN : Mr. Speaker, Sir, বাংলাদেশ কৃষিপ্রধান দেশ। এদেশে শতকরা ৯০ জন কৃষক। তারা মাথার ঘাম পায়ে ফেলে, রোদে পুড়ে, বৃষ্টিতে ভিজে, নিজের জীবন বিপন্ন কোরে এদেশের ফসল উৎপন্ন করে। কিন্তু দুঃখের বিষয় এদেশের কৃষকের পেটের ভাত নাই, পরণের কাপড় নাই। ছেলেমেয়েরা হাহাকার কোরে দুয়ারে দুয়ারে ঘুরে বেড়াচেছ। আমাদের দেশের জমিদার, তালুকদার এবং মহাজনেরা খাজনা এবং ঋণের দায়ে সমস্ত কৃষকদের জমি নিলাম-বিক্রী কোরে খাস কোরে নিয়েছে। শতকরা ৮০ জন কৃষকের জায়গা-জমি নেই। কৃষকেরা পরের জমিতে বিনাসর্ত্তে প্রত্যেক বৎসর নগদ খাজনা দিয়ে চাষ করে। প্রত্যেক বৎসরে তাদের খাজনা দিতে হয়। এই যে সব পাটের জমি record হোচেছ সেগুলি প্রায় সবই তালুকদার, জমিদার ও মহাজনদের নামে। এক একজনের নামে ২০০/৫০০ বিঘা জমি record হোয়েছে। কিন্তু দুঃখের বিষয় যারা নিজ হাতে ক্ষেতী কচেছ সেই সব কৃষকদের এক বিঘা জমিও নেই। আজ পাট-জমি যেসব recorded হোচেছ তার প্রায় সমস্তই জমিদার এবং মহাজনদের নামে। কৃষকদের ভেতর এখন থেকেই বিদ্রোহ দেখা দিয়েছে। আমি মন্ত্রী সাহেবকে অনুরোধ কোচ্ছি এরূপ ব্যবস্থা তিনি করুন যাতে পূর্ব্ব বৎসর যেসব কৃষকেরা পাটের জমি চাষ কোরেছিল তাদের নামেই জমি record করা হউক। এই সব পাটের জমি তাদেরই পাওয়া উচিত। তা না হোলে দেশে ভীষণ অবস্থার সৃষ্টি হইবে।

তারপর কৃষকদের উৎপন্ন ফসলে এই সমস্ত রাজা, মহারাজা, নবাব, মন্ত্রী, কাউন্সিলের মেম্বর, উকিল, ব্যারিষ্টার, মৌলানা, মৌলভী, পণ্ডিত, ব্রাহ্মণ সকলেই বেঁচে আছেন। কিন্তু এই সব কৃষক কিসে বাঁচবে সে সম্বন্ধে কেউ চিন্তা কোরছেন না। কৃষকের উপকারের জন্য Bengal Tenancy Act, Jute Regulation প্রভৃতি অনেক কিছুই করা হোয়েছে—তাঁরা বলে থাকেন। কিন্তু সেই সব ব্যবস্থার দ্বারা কৃষকদের বিশেষ কিছু উপকার হোচেছ না। তার কারণ যাঁরা এই সব আইন প্রণয়ন কোরেছেন তাঁরা কৃষক নন। কৃষকদের দুঃখের কথা, কৃষকদের মর্ম্মবেদনা, তাদের বিপদের কথা তাঁরা চিন্তা করেন না। এই সব আইন—মিলমালিক, ধনিক, জমিদার এবং মহাজনদের পরামর্শ অনুসারে, তাদের সুবিধার জন্যই করা হয়। সুতরাং যেমনই আইন করা হউক না কেন, তা কৃষকদের কাজে আসে

না। Assemblyতে লম্বা লম্বা বক্তৃতা দিলেই কোন ফয়দা হবে না। Coalition পার্টীর মেম্বররা বক্তৃতা দিবার সময় কৃষকদের দু:খে মায়াকান্না কাঁদেন, কিন্তু যখনই খাজনা কমাবার প্রস্তাব, চৌকিদারী tax উঠিয়ে দেবার কথা, পাটের নিম্নতম মূল্য ১০৲ ঠিক করার কথা আসে তখনই এই সব কৃষকদরদী মেম্বররা এই সব প্রস্তাবের বিরুদ্ধে ভোট দেন।

তারপর কৃষি বিভাগের জন্য যে সামান্য টাকা ব্যয় নির্দ্ধারণ করা হোয়েছে সেই টাকার দ্বারা কৃষকদের কি উন্নতি হোতে পারে, বিশেষ কোরে যখন কর্ম্মচারীদের বেতন দিতে দিতেই প্রায় সব টাকা চোলে যায়? দেশে কৃষকদের সুবিধার জন্য জলনিকাশের ব্যবস্থা কোরে দেওয়ার এবং নানা রকম বৈজ্ঞানিক উপায়ে কৃষির উন্নতির জন্য একটা পয়সাও বরাদ্দ করা হয় নাই। জায়গায় জায়গায় কৃষির উন্নতির জন্য Demonstrator রাখা হোয়েছে বটে, কিন্তু তাদের দ্বারা যে কি উপকার হয় তা বোঝা যায় না। তারা যে বীজ দেয়, তা গ্রামে কোথাও খুঁজে পাওয়া যায় না। এই সব বীজ কোথাও বা প্রেসিডেণ্ট পঞ্চায়েত এই রকম দু একটী লোককে দেওয়া হয়। তারপর Demonstratorরা বিল কোরে বহু টাকা আদায় করে। বিভাগীয় মন্ত্রী সাহেবের এই বিষয়ে তদন্ত কোরে যাতে কৃষকদের উপকারের জন্য এ বীজ বিতরণ করা হয় তার বন্দোবস্ত করা উচিত।

Sir, আমাদের পূর্ব্ববঙ্গে আষাঢ় মাস হোতে কার্ত্তিক মাস পর্য্যন্ত চাষের প্রায় সমস্ত জমি জলে ডুবে থাকে, কিন্তু এইসব জলনিকাশের কোন বন্দোবস্ত এপর্য্যন্ত করা হয় নাই। নোয়াখালি জেলার ডাকাতিয়া নদী আসাম (সিলেট) হইয়া মেঘনায় প্লাবিত হোয়েছে। তিন চার বৎসর হইল সেই ডাকাতিয়া নদীর মুখ বন্ধ হওয়ায় নোয়াখালি জেলার সমস্ত স্থান জলে ডুবিয়া যায়। এই নদীর মুখ কাটাইবার জন্য কোন রকম বন্দোবস্ত করা হয় নাই। আর একটা খাল আছে চৌমহানী হইয়া,—মাদারী, রসিকপুর, লক্ষ্মীপুর, হাজীগঞ্জ, রায়পুর, ভবানীগঞ্জ, রামগঞ্জ, সোনাপুর, সোনাইমুড়ী, বজরা এবং প্রায় এই জেলার সমস্ত স্থান ঘুরিয়া—মন্ত্রী সাহেবের শ্বশুরবাড়ীর দরজার সম্মুখ দিয়া পুনরায় চৌমহানী আসিয়া মিলিত হইয়া মেঘনায় প্রবাহিত হইয়াছে। সেই খাল এত সরু যে, তা সমস্ত জেলার জলনিকাশের উপযুক্ত নয়। সেটার সংস্কার করিয়া দিয়া দেশের কৃষকদের রক্ষা করিবার জন্য আমি মন্ত্রী সাহেবকে অনুরোধ কোরছি। তা না হোলে নোয়াখালি জেলার কৃষককুল আর বাঁচবে না। তারপর সমুদ্রের লবণাক্ত জলরাশি দ্বারা রামগতি, হাতিয়া, সন্দ্বীপ, বুড়িরচর প্রভৃতি অঞ্চল প্লাবিত হইয়া সেই স্থানের কৃষকদের সমস্ত রকম ফসল নষ্ট হইয়া যায়। সেই অঞ্চলের চতুর্দ্দিকে বাঁধ দিয়া লবণাক্ত জলপ্রবাহ বন্ধ করিতে পারিলে এই সব ফসল নষ্ট হইতে পারে না। আমি বিভাগীয় মন্ত্রী মহোদয়কে অনুরোধ করিতেছি যে, তিনি যেন এই সকল অঞ্চলে বাঁধ দিয়া সেই সকল কৃষকদের ঘরবাড়ী, জায়গা জমি, বিষয়-সম্পত্তি এবং কৃষির উৎপন্ন ফসল সব রক্ষা করিয়া তাহাদের জীবনরক্ষার বন্দোবস্ত করেন। তারপর ঐসব অঞ্চলে খাসমহলে যে জমি আছে সেই সব জমি, জমিশূন্য কৃষকদের দিবার জন্য মন্ত্রী সাহেবের নিকট দরবার করা হোয়েছিল, কিন্তু সেই সব জমির কোন বন্দোবস্ত হয় নাই। তারপর খাসমহালে যে সব জমি আছে সেই সব জমি খাজনা, সেলামী ইত্যাদি দিয়ে কি কোরে কৃষকেরা নিতে পারে? শতকরা ৮০ জন লোকের জমি নেই, তারা কোথায় যাবে?

এই সব লোককে খাসমহল হইতে বিনা সেলামীতে খাজনা কমিয়ে দিয়ে "একর" প্রতি এক টাকা জমির খাজনা বন্দোবস্ত কোরে না দিলে হাজার হাজার লোক গৃহশূন্য হবে এবং তাদের সর্ব্বনাশ হবে।

Sir, আমাদের নোয়াখালি জেলায় কৃষকদের বিনা সুদে বা অল্প সুদে ঋণ দেবার ব্যবস্থা নেই। নোয়াখালিতে কৃষকদের রক্ষার জন্য একটী লেণ্ড মর্টগেজ ব্যাঙ্ক স্থাপন করিয়া দিবার জন্য আমি মন্ত্রী মহোদয়কে অনুরোধ করছি। আর যেসব কৃষকেরা Co-operative Bankএর টাকা নিয়েছিল তাদের দুর্দ্দশার অন্ত নেই। টাকা দিতে পারে না বোলে তাদের পচা পুকুরের জলে নামিয়ে জুতা পেটা করা হয়। এই ব্যবহারের প্রতিবাদ কোরলে বলা হয়, "তোমাদের মন্ত্রী রোয়েছেন, মেম্বর রোয়েছেন, কৈ তাঁরা ত তোমাদের জন্য কোন আইন পাশ কোরছেন না, আমরা কি কোর্ব্ব ?" Co-operative Bankএর কর্ম্মচারীদের অত্যাচার সহ্য কোরে, মারধোর খেয়েও নিস্তার নাই। তার পর এই সব কৃষকদের থানায় চালান দেওয়া হয় এবং তাদের নামে নানা রকম মোকদ্দমা জুড়িয়া দেওয়া হয়। আজ কৃষকদের রক্ষার আর কোন উপায় নাই। তারা কোথায় যাবে ? এদিকে Assemblyতে যে সমস্ত আইন করা হয়, বলা হয় এই সব আইন কৃষকদের উপকারের জন্য করা হোয়েছে। যারাই রক্ষক তারাই ভক্ষক। তাই আমি কৃষি মন্ত্রী সাহেবকে অনুরোধ কোরছি যে, তিনি এই সব দিকে লক্ষ্য কোরে দুর্ভাগা কৃষকেরা যাতে রক্ষা পায় তার বন্দোবস্ত করুন। চার বৎসর চোলে গিয়েছে। কোন-মতে আর কয়মাস কাটাইয়া দিতে পারিলেই হয়। কিন্তু জানিবেন সময় এসেছে ভোটের, এবার দেশে গেলে ভোটের পরিবর্ত্তে লাঠিপেটা খেতে হবে। সেইজন্য পূর্ব্ব থেকেই Ordinance জারী করা হয়েছে, যাতে মন্ত্রীদের বা গভর্ণমেণ্টের এই সকল কার্য্যের কেহ ন্যায়সঙ্গত সমালোচনা করিতে না পারেন।

এই সব Ordinance যা কোরেছেন সেই Ordinanceএর দ্বারা আপনারা এদের গতি প্রতিরোধ কোর্ত্তে পার্ব্বেন না। পেটের আগুন কখনই বন্দুকের আগুনের দ্বারা নেভে না। সেই আগুনে আপনারাই পুড়ে ছাই-ভস্ম হোয়ে যাবেন। লক্ষ লক্ষ মানুষ বিদ্রোহ কোরে জেলে যাবে। তারা জানে জেলে গেলে ভাত পাওয়া যায়। এই সব Ordinance দ্বারা কোন কাজ হবে না। আজ হাজার হাজার লোক বদ্ধপরিকর হোয়েছে.....................

(Here the member having reached the time limit resumed his seat.)

The Hn'ble Mr. TAMIZUDDIN KHAN: Mr. Speaker, Sir, I feel somewhat reluctant to rise after the very entertaining speech of the last speaker. As his speech has been entertaining, so the speech of my honourable friend Mr. Jogendra Nath Mandal has been surprising and disappointing. First of all, Sir, he has spent his entire time in speaking on jute although there is no motion relating to jute under discussion to-day. Certain motions directly relating to jute were moved day before yesterday and discussed, but probably my friend was then absent. He

has thought it fit to raise the whole question of Government policy regarding jute regulation and the evil effects, according to his estimation, of the enforcement of the regulation policy of Government, over again to-day.

Sir, I am sorry that my friend Mr. Mandal never cared to listen to the various announcements that were made on the floor of this House, nor did he care to read the instructions that were issued for correction of the records. He says that on account of defects in the records, the jute-growers will be faced with tremendous difficulty and that Government is not doing anything to remedy those defects. I am surprised to see, Sir, that my friend could make a statement like that. He says that Government has made no provision whatsoever for the cultivation of alternative crops by the jute-growers, two-thirds of whose lands will be released from jute. Has not my friend seen that a sum of Rs. 4½ lakhs has been provided for the purchase and distribution of seeds specially for this purpose? Then also very elaborate instructions have been issued to the cultivators suggesting what alternative crops they may sow on the land released from jute. Again he says that the poor cultivators will be faced with very great difficulty if the lands for which they may get licenses are found to be not fit for sowing of jute on account of rains being late or for some other cause. I have repeatedly stated, Sir, on the floor of the House that now the jute-growers are being given every facility to rotate the land on which they have to sow jute. If they get a license for a particular plot, they can change the plot at any time they like. They can approach the Jute Committee which will take immediate steps and give them license for some other lands that the growers may think to be suitable.

Then again my friend says that many cultivators have lands in several *mauzas* and it will be very difficult for them to sow jute in all these different *mauzas*, particularly during the rains, and so on and so forth. My friend forgets that this point also was made very clear on the floor of the House. If a cultivator has got several plots of land in several *mauzas*, he can consolidate all the plots into one according to his convenience. My friend has not looked into all these things and he has hurled absolutely unmerited charges against Government.

However, Sir, to-day I do not like to deal with jute in detail, but as my friend has raised this question I was constrained to give a short reply.

One other point I must touch upon. My friend has sought to show a royal road to the cultivator to reach the millenium. He says, "Withdraw the regulation, allow the cultivators to grow as much jute as they like, and then fix a minimum price." I need hardly say that an absurd proposition like that does not require any reply on the floor of the House.

Sir, my honourable friend, Mr. Sasanka Sekhar Sanyal, had raised in me, very great expectation. I expected that he would give the Government some practical suggestions. But what he said amounted in my opinion to a very well-written essay on certain well-known theories of agriculture. He made a sweeping statement that the Government have no comprehensive policy. The Maulana Sahib also has said that the Government have no comprehensive policy. First of all I would like to say that none of the members who spoke to-day could tell the House what the policy of the Government should be. Nothing, not a single word about that is to be found in the speech of any of the honourable gentlemen. They simply say that the Government have no policy. I find that so far as some honourable members are concerned they have no knowledge whatsoever about the actual working of the Agricultural Department. I would again like to say what the policy of the Government is so far as agriculture is concerned. I stated that very clearly in my initial speech. The policy is to increase the yield of the soil, and to give the cultivator a proper price for his commodity. To implement that policy what the Government are doing I have already stated. First of all, if the yield of the soil is to be increased, researches have to be carried on to find out how the yield can be increased. That research is being carried on in the Central Research Station at Dacca, and so far as paddy is concerned, there are two other research schemes now being worked out in Western Bengal, in Suri and at Chinsurah. That is not the only thing that Government should do or are doing. A good deal of valuable results has already been achieved in the research station at Dacca. The principal duty now is to carry the results of these researches to the cultivator. Now, Sir, I have already stated what the Government are doing in order to reach the results of researches to the cultivators. For this purpose there are district farms and demonstration farms at different places. The district farms are not demonstration farms. Some of my friends have said that district farms are seldom visited by cultivators. The district farms are not intended for the purpose of demonstration. Therefore, the cultivators are not invited to visit the district farms. The district farms are established for two main purposes. One is to test the results of researches. Suppose a particular strain of paddy is found to be suitable from various points of view at the Dacca Farm. It has to be tested whether that strain of paddy will be suitable for other districts also. For that purpose in the district agricultural farms tests take place as to whether particular strain is suitable or not for particular districts. If it is found that it is suitable, then an attempt is made to propagate that strain amongst the cultivators of the district.

Mr. CHARU CHANDRA ROY: On a point of information, Sir. Is there any arrangement for the examination of the soil? We do not find any in this year's budget.

The Hon'ble Mr. TAMIZUDDIN KHAN: I don't like to be carried away from the trend of my speech. For the purpose of propagation there are these thana demonstration farms. The thana demonstration farm is not a Government farm. Wherever it is found possible in a thana, Government fix up a particular cultivator and demonstrate the improved methods on the holding of the cultivator and by the cultivator. The cultivator is supplied with better seeds, better implements and good manure. He is also shown proper modern methods of agriculture by the demonstrator who is in charge of the farm. When that is done in the holding of the cultivator, not only that particular cultivator but also the neighbouring cultivators see the operations and actually learn how these improved methods have to be adopted. Around each particular demonstration farm, there are three demonstration areas within a radius of 5 miles from the farm. In each demonstration area some 6 to 10 cultivators are chosen and they are all similarly supplied with better seeds, better implements and good manure. They are also taken care of as far as practicable by the demonstrator. Therefore, within a radius of 5 miles, a large number of cultivators are given practical instructions as to modern improved methods of cultivation. Each demonstration farm works at a particular centre for three years. It is expected that in the course of three years the people of that locality will sufficiently learn the art of modern cultivation. Then the farm is shifted elsewhere and another similar area is taken up. In this way, it is expected that within a limited number of years all the different union boards and thanas of the province will be covered. But our principal difficulty is that we are not being able to do this sufficiently quickly for two reasons. One is want of money. We have not money enough to establish demonstration farms in each union board. If we could do that, it would be far better. Secondly, we have not got enough trained officers. Demonstrators have got to be placed in charge of the demonstration farms. Honourable members know that there is only one agricultural school at Dacca where a limited number of demonstrators are turned out every year. Recently the Bhutnath Pal Agricultural School at Chinsurah has been provincialised, and we shall now get also a small number of demonstrators every year from that school. These are the only two existing sources. If we could get sufficient money and if we could get a larger number of demonstrators, we could cover the entire province, within a very short time. We are not, however, resting content with this limited number of officers. I have a scheme which I am reluctant to let the House know at this stage, because it has not yet been accepted. But I feel tempted to give an indication of this scheme.

The scheme is at present under the consideration of Government. The scheme is to give a short training to 100 demonstrators every year for two years. They will be given six months' training in district agricultural farms, and then they will be given another six months'

training in the agricultural schools. Then, after one year's training they will be employed as demonstrators. They will be placed in charge of demonstration farms, but when our full-fledged demonstrators come out of the different schools, these newly trained demonstrators will be replaced by the full-fledged demonstrators; and the new demonstrators will be encouraged to go back to the agricultural schools and finish their training. They will remain in training for another year. That will complete the course of two years' training of the new demonstrators. It is expected, and it has been admitted by experts, that these demonstrators will be far better demonstrators than those who are being turned out by our institutions at present. If we can give effect to that scheme, that will accelerate the pace of our progress so far as our duty to make our cultivators take advantage of the results of research is concerned. That is the line along which we want to proceed and are actually proceeding, and that is the procedure that has been adopted in other provinces.

Then, Sir, it has been said that we have now got sufficient money. I admit that the total amount is no doubt large, viz., Rs. 43,85,000, but my friend has forgotten that out of this sum Rs. 26,75,000 is meant for jute. The normal expenditure is only Rs. 17,10,000, whereas the normal expenditure of the Punjab Agriculture Department is in the neighbourhood of Rs. 40,00,000. Therefore, the assertion that the department have now got sufficient money is groundless.

Then, Sir, my honourable friend Maulana Maniruzzaman Islamabadi has said that so far as the improvement of live-stock is concerned, Government have done nothing. I wonder how can an honourable member make a statement like that after going through the budgets of the last few years. In this connection I should like to state that under our cattle improvement scheme that is now in operation in as many as 22 districts, till 1939-40, 2,750 stud-bulls were distributed, the number has since then increased still further. In the year 1939-40 as many as 68,900 cows were covered and the number of their progeny has risen to 54,125. Perhaps my honourable friends do not know that a calf of the new progeny aged only three or four months can fetch a price of Rs. 15 to Rs. 20, whereas an ordinary country calf can fetch only Rs. 3 or Rs. 4 nowadays.

I have no time to reply to all the other points that have been raised. If my friends had only cared to know all about the actual working of the department, much of the uncalled for criticisms could have been obviated.

The motion of Mr. Sasanka Sekhar Sanyal that the demand of Rs. 43,85,000 for expenditure under the head "40—Agriculture" be reduced by Rs. 100 was then put and a division called.

(When the ringing of the division bell was over, Mr. Speaker made the following observation: "Before we dispose of the 'Agriculture' budget and disperse, I may just at this stage inform the House that to-morrow we shall meet at 10 a.m.").

The division was then taken, with the following result:—

AYES—28.

Abdul Hakeem, Mr.
Abdul Wahed, Maulvi.
Abul Fazl, Mr. Md.
Ahmed Khan, Mr. Syed.
Banerji, Mr. Satya Priya.
Barma, Babu Premhari.
Barman, Babu Shyama Prosad.
Biswas, Mr. Surendra Nath.
Bose, Mr. Sarat Chandra.
Chaudhuri, Rai Harendra Nath.
Das Gupta, Babu Khagendra Nath.
Dutta Gupta, Miss Mira.
Emdadul Haque, Kazi.
Hasan Ali Chowdhury, Mr. Syed.
Jonab Ali Majumder, Maulvi.
Kumar, Mr. Atul Chandra.
Kundu, Mr. Nishitha Nath.
Maji, Mr. Adwaita Kumar.
Majumdar, Mrs. Hemaprova.
Mandal, Mr. Jogendra Nath.
Maniruzzaman Islamabadi, Maulana Md.
Naskor, Mr. Hem Chandra.
Nausher Ali, Mr. Syed.
Roy, Mr. Charu Chandra.
Roy, Mr. Manmatha Nath.
Sanyal, Mr. Sasanka Sekhar.
Waliur Rahman, Maulvi.
Zaman, Mr. A. M. A.

NOES—76.

Abdul Aziz, Maulana Md.
Abdul Hakim Vikrampuri, Maulvi Md.
Abdul Hamid, Mr. A. M.
Abdul Karim, Mr.
Abdul Majid, Mr. Syed.
Abdul Wahab Khan, Mr.
Abdulla-Al Mahmood, Mr.
Abdur Rahman, Khan Bahadur A. F. M.
Abdur Rahman Siddiqi, Mr.
Abdur Rasheed, Maulvi Md.
Abdur Rauf, Khan Bahadur Shah.
Abdur Razzak, Maulvi.
Abul Hosain Ahmed, Mr.
Abul Quasem, Maulvi.
Ahmed Hosain, Mr.
Alfazuddin Ahmed, Khan Bahadur Maulvi.
Aminullah, Khan Sahib Maulvi.
Amir Ali Mia, Maulvi Md.
Anwarul Azim, Khan Bahadur Md.
Ashrafali, Mr. M.
Azhar Ali, Maulvi.
Badruddoja, Mr. Syed.
Bell-Hart, Miss P. B.
Biswas, Mr. Rasik Lal.
Chippendale, Mr. J. W.
Das, Mr. Anukul Chandra.
Das, Rai Sahib Kirit Bhusan.
Edbar, Mr. Upendranath.
Farhad Raza Chowdhury, Mr. M.
Farhat Bano Khanam, Begum.
Fazlul Quadir, Khan Bahadur Maulvi.
Fazlur Rahman, Mr. (Dacca).
Fazlur Rahman, Mr. (Mymensingh).
Gladding, Mr. D
Gomes, Mr. S . A.
Habibullah, the Hon'ble Nawab Bahadur K., of Dacca.
Hafizuddin Choudhury, Maulvi.
Hamiduddin Ahmed, Khan Sahib.
Hasina Murshed, Mrs. M.B.E.
Hawkings, Mr. R. J.
Heywood, Mr. Rogers.
Idris Ahmed Mia, Maulvi.
Ispahani, Mr. M. A. H.
Jalaluddin Ahmad, Khan Bahadur Maulvi.
Jasimuddin Ahmed, Khan Saheb Maulvi.
Kennedy, Mr. I. G.
McGregor, Mr. G. G.
Maguire, Mr. L. T.
Mandal, Mr. Birat Chandra.
Mandal, Mr. Jagat Chandra.
Maniruddin Akhand, Maulvi.
Miles, Mr. C. W.
Morgan, Mr. G., C.I.E.
Moslem Ali Mollah, Maulvi M.
Muhammad Israil, Maulvi.
Muhammad Solaiman, Khan Sahib Maulvi.
Mullick, the Hon'ble Mr. Mukunda Behary.
Musharruff Hossain, the Hon'ble Nawab, Khan Bahadur.
Mustagawsal Haque, Mr. Syed.
Nandy, the Hon'ble Maharaja Srischandra, of Cossimbazar.
Nasarullah, Nawabzada K.
Patton, Mr. W. C.
Raikut, the Hon'ble Mr. Prasanna Deb.
Roy, Mr. Dhananjoy.
Sahebe-Alam, Mr. Syed.
Sarkar, Babu Madhusudan.
Shahabuddin, Mr. Khwaja, C.B.E.
Shamsuddin Ahmed Khondkar, Mr.
Stark, Mr. A. F.
Speller, Mr. J. H.
Sinclair, Mr. J. F.
Sirdar, Babu Litta Munda.
Suhrawardy, the Hon'ble Mr. H. S.
Tamizuddin Khan, the Hon'ble Mr.
Walker, Mr. J. R.
Wordsworth, Mr. W. C.

The Ayes being 28, and the Noes 76, the motion was lost.

The motion of the Hon'ble Mr. Tamizuddin Khan that a sum of Rs. 43,85,000 be granted for expenditure under the head "40—Agriculture" was then put and a division taken with the following result:—

AYES—62.

Abdul Aziz, Maulana Md.
Abdul Hakim Vikrampuri, Maulvi Md.
Abdul Hamid, Mr. A. M.
Abdul Majid, Mr. Syed.
Abdulla-Al Mahmood, Mr.
Abdur Rahman, Khan Bahadur A. F. M.
Abdur Rahman Siddiqi, Mr.
Abdur Rasheed, Maulvi Md.
Abul Hossain Ahmed, Mr.
Abul Quasem, Maulvi.
Ahmed Hossain, Mr.
Altasuddin Ahmed, Khan Bahadur Maulvi.
Aminullah, Khan Sahib Maulvi.
Amir Ali Mia, Maulvi Md.
Anwarul Azim, Khan Bahadur Md.
Ashrafali, Mr. M.
Bell-Hart, Miss P. B.
Biswas, Mr. Rasik Lal.
Chippendale, Mr. J. W.
Das, Mr. Anukul Chandra.
Edbar, Mr. Upendranath.
Farhad Raza Chowdhury, Mr. M.
Farhat Bano Khanam, Begum.
Fazlul Quadir, Khan Bahadur Maulvi.
Fazlur Rahman, Mr. (Dacca).
Fazlur Rahman, Mr. (Mymensingh).
Gladding, Mr. D.
Gomes, Mr. S. A.
Habibullah, the Hon'ble Nawab Bahadur K., of Dacca.
Hasina Murshed, Mrs., M.B.E.
Hawkings, Mr. R. J.
Idris Ahmed Mia, Maulvi.
Ispahani, Mr. M. A. H.
Jalaluddin Ahmad, Khan Bahadur Maulvi.
Jasimuddin Ahmed, Khan Saheb Maulvi.
Kennedy, Mr. I. G.
McGregor, Mr. G. G.
Maguire, Mr. L. T.
Mandal, Mr. Birat Chandra.
Mandal, Mr. Jagat Chandra.
Morgan, Mr. G., C.I.E.
Muhammad Israil, Maulvi.
Muhammad Solaiman, Khan Bahadur Maulvi.
Mullick, the Hon'ble Mr. Mukunda Behary.
Musharruff Hossain, the Hon'ble Nawab, Khan Bahadur.
Mustagawsal Haque, Mr. Syed.
Nandy, the Hon'ble Maharaja Srischandra, of Cossimbazar.
Nasarullah, Nawabzada K.
Patton, Mr. W. C.
Raikut, the Hon'ble Mr. Prasanna Deb.
Roy, Mr. Dhananjoy.
Sahebe-Alam, Mr. Syed.
Sarkar, Babu Madhusudan.
Shahabuddin, Mr. Khwaja, C.B.E.
Speller, Mr. J. H.
Stark, Mr. A. F.
Sirdar, Babu Litta Munda.
Suhrawardy, the Hon'ble Mr. H. S.
Tamizuddin Khan, the Hon'ble Mr.
Walker, Mr. J. R.
Whitehead, Mr. R. B.
Wordsworth, Mr. W. C.

NOES—27.

Abdul Hakeem, Mr.
Abdul Wahed, Maulvi.
Abul Fazl, Mr. Md.
Ahmed Khan, Mr. Syed.
Banerji, Mr. Satya Priya.
Barma, Babu Premhari.
Biswas, Mr. Surendra Nath.
Bose, Mr. Sarat Chandra.
Chaudhuri, Rai Harendra Nath.
Das Gupta, Babu Khagendra Nath.
Dutta Gupta, Miss Mira.
Emdadul Haque, Kazi.
Hasan Ali Chowdhury, Mr. Syed.
Jonab Ali Majumdar, Maulvi.
Kumar, Mr. Atul Chandra.
Kundu, Mr. Nishitha Nath.
Maji, Mr. Adwaita Kumar.
Majumdar, Mrs. Hemprova.
Mandal, Mr. Jogendra Nath.
Maniruzzaman Islamabadi, Maulana Md.
Nasker, Mr. Hem Chandra.
Nausher Ali, Mr. Syed.
Roy, Mr. Charu Chandra.
Roy, Mr. Manmatha Nath.
Sanyal, Mr. Sasanka Sekhar.
Waliur Rahman, Maulvi.
Zaman, Mr. A. M. A.

The Ayes being 62 and Noes 27, the motion was carried.

Adjournment.

It being 8-10 p.m.—

The House was adjourned till 10 a.m. on Saturday, the 15th March, 1941, at the Assembly House, Calcutta.

Proceedings of the Bengal Legislative Assembly assembled under the provisions of the Government of India Act, 1935.

THE ASSEMBLY met in the Assembly House, Calcutta, on Saturday, the 15th March, 1941, at 10 a.m.

Present:

Mr. Speaker (the Hon'ble Sir MUHAMMAD AZIZUL HAQUE, C.I.E., Khan Bahadur) in the Chair, 9 Hon'ble Ministers and 150 members.

STARRED QUESTIONS

(to which oral answers were given)

Observation in the "Star of India" under the caption "Enemies on the War Path".

***156.** (SHORT NOTICE.) **Mr. SATYAPRIYA BANERJEE:** (*a*) Has the attention of the Hon'ble Minister in charge of the Home Department been drawn to the observations made by the *Star of India*, an evening daily of Calcutta, in its issue of the 4th March, 1941, under the caption "Enemies on the War Path"?

(*b*) If so, what steps does the Hon'ble Minister intend to take against the said *Star of India* for fomenting communal hatred and incitement to the disturbance of the public peace?

The Hon'ble Mr. A. K. FAZLUL HUQ: (*a*) Yes.

(*b*) None.

Mr. CHARU CHANDRA ROY: Will the Hon'ble Minister be pleased to state if Government do not think that that observation of the *Star of India* foments communal hatred?

The Hon'ble Mr. A. K. FAZLUL HUQ: In view of the fact that His Excellency is trying to bring about communal peace and harmony, I hope my friend will not pursue the matter further.

Mr. SASANKA SEKHAR SANYAL: With reference to the answer just now given by the Hon'ble Minister, will he be pleased to say whether, in view of the objective to which he has referred, he will also consider the desirability of giving instruction to the *Star of India* not to pursue this policy of writing such articles in the meantime?

The Hon'ble Mr. A. K. FAZLUL HUQ: If I am to take action against one, I have to take action against a hundred, and I am not going to disturb the peace of the country.

Mr. SASANKA SEKHAR SANYAL: We have no connection with any other paper now. Here the question is with regard to the *Star of India.*

Mr. SPEAKER: He has said that in this matter so many papers are concerned and that he does not like to disturb the public peace and harmony by taking action against them.

Mr. SASANKA SEKHAR SANYAL: In view of the objective to which he has referred, does not the Hon'ble Minister consider the desirability of issuing instruction to this particular paper not to pursue writing such articles?

The Hon'ble Mr. A. K. FAZLUL HUQ: Most gladly we have done that. As a matter of fact, I believe some kind of peace and harmony now prevails in the country.

Communal riot at Tiljala and Bondel Road.

***157. Mr. SYED HASAN ALI CHOWDHURY:** (*a*) Is the Hon'ble Minister in charge of the Home Department aware—

(*i*) that there was a communal riot at Tiljala and Bondel Road on the 21st January, 1940;

(*ii*) that 15 persons were injured and had to be removed to the hospital;

(*iii*) that the investigations were made both by the Calcutta Police and the Bengal Police;

(*iv*) that several persons were sent up for trial at the Suburban Police Magistrate's Court at Alipore and the Subdivisional Officer's Court at Alipore;

(*v*) that the case pending in the Court of the Suburban Police Magistrate's Court at Alipore was discharged on the 16th May, 1940; and

(*vi*) that the Police had not submitted the charge sheet?

(*b*) If the answer to (*a*) (*vi*) is in the affirmative, will the Hon'ble Minister be pleased to state the reason why the Police did not submit the charge sheet?

The Hon'ble Mr. A. K. FAZLUL HUQ: (*a*) (*i*), (*iii*), (*iv*) and (*vi*) Yes.

(*ii*) Nine injured persons were removed to hospital.

(*v*) It was discharged on the 28th May, 1940.

(*b*) I do not personally approve of the manner in which the case was handled, but it is now too late to revive matters which have been set at rest by lapse of time.

Tiljala Hindu-Muslim Rioting Cases.

***158. Mr. SYED JALALUDDIN HASHEMY:** (*a*) Has the attention of the Hon'ble Minister in charge of the Home Department been drawn to the report of a public meeting of the Mussalmans of Tiljala, Karaya, Park Circus and other adjoining places held on the 10th November, 1940, at the Park Circus Maidan?

(*b*) Is it a fact that the accused in the Tiljala Hindu-Moslem rioting cases which occured on the last *Bakr-Id* day have since been discharged?

(*c*) If so, will the Hon'ble Minister be pleased to state the reason therefor?

The Hon'ble Mr. A. K. FAZLUL HUQ: (*a*) and (*b*) Yes.

(*c*) In the opinion of the Public Prosecutor, Alipore, evidence was insufficient to justify submission of charge sheet. Further investigation was ordered but the Public Prosecutor refused to change his opinion. The police did not proceed with the matter further. The matter has ended and another *Id* has come and gone. It would be impolitic now to revive the matter at this stage.

Mr. ATUL KRISHNA GHOSE: Will the Hon'ble Minister be pleased to state why steps have not been taken to conduct the case properly in view of the fact that the Hon'ble Minister himself is not satisfied with the way in which the case has been handled?

Mr. SPEAKER: That is a question of opinion.

Mr. ATUL KRISHNA GHOSE: Is that a personal opinion?

Mr. SPEAKER: Yes. If the Law officers conduct the case in a particular way, Government cannot help it.

Mr. ABDUL WAHAB KHAN: Will the Hon'ble Minister be pleased to state how many adjournments were taken by the police for submitting their report?

Mr. SPEAKER: That is entirely a judicial matter. It may be very bad, but still it is a matter which cannot be helped.

River Titas in Brahmanbaria subdivision.

***159. Mr. DHIRENDRA NATH DUTTA:** (*a*) Is the Hon'ble Minister in charge of the Communications and Works Department aware that the river Titas in the subdivision of Brahmanbaria in the district of Tippera has silted up in many places, especially near Akhaura Jute centre in the subdivision of Brahmanbaria?

(*b*) If the answer to (*a*) is in the affirmative, do the Government consider the desirability of taking steps to remove the silting up of the river and to have a deep *khal* opened between the village Ujanishar and the opposite side of Akhaura?

MINISTER in charge of the COMMUNICATIONS and WORKS DEPARTMENT (the Hon'ble Maharaja Srischandra Nandy, of Cossimbazar): (*a*) Yes.

(*b*) No. Neither proposal is feasible. The question whether an alternative boat route from Akhaura to the Meghna river will be feasible *via* the re-excavated Kurulia *khal* is, however, under investigation.

UNSTARRED QUESTION

(to which answer was laid on the table)

Inspectors of Factories.

59. Mr. P. BANERJI: (*a*) Will the Hon'ble Minister in charge of the Commerce and Labour Department be pleased to lay on the table a statement showing from January, 1940, to January, 1941,—

(*i*) the number of cases filed against the presses by the Factory Inspectors—

(1) under the Payment of Wages Act, and

(2) for the violation of the Factories Act; and

(*ii*) the results of these cases?

(*b*) If no cases were filed by the Inspectors of Factories under those Acts, will the Hon'ble Minister be pleased to state the reason thereof?

MINISTER in charge of the COMMERCE and LABOUR DEPARTMENT (the Hon'ble Mr. H. S. Suhrawardy): (*a*) A statement is laid on the table.

(*b*) No case was filed under the Payment of Wages Act during the year because no such case arose.

Statement referred to in the reply to clause (a) of unstarred question No. 59.

(*a*) (*i*) (1) Nil and (2) Seven.

(*ii*) Four cases ended in conviction and fine, two in warning and one case was withdrawn.

Distribution of notes on the working of departments.

Mr. CHARU CHANDRA ROY: Sir, we find that both in the case of Agriculture and in the case of Industries, the notes on the working of the department are laid on the table just on the day when we begin discussion. May I ask the Government through you if such notes cannot be distributed earlier?

Mr. SPEAKER: I think this should be done a day before. I will instruct the Hon'ble Minister accordingly.

DEMAND FOR GRANT.

43—Industries—Industries.

The Hon'ble Mr. TAMIZUDDIN KHAN: Sir, on the recommendation of His Excellency the Governor, I beg to move that a sum of Rs. 19,19,000 be granted for expenditure under the head "43—Industries—Industries."

Mr. SASANKA SEKHAR SANYAL: Sir, I beg of you and the Hon'ble Minister to see that the Hon'ble Minister does not unnecessarily take up the time of the House as, after all, he wants constructive suggestions from this side of the House.

Mr. SPEAKER: We have to finish within two hours and guillotine will fall at 12 o'clock.

The Hon'ble Mr. TAMIZUDDIN KHAN: Sir, the House has had an opportunity in the meantime to look into the details of the schemes included in the budget and without anticipating the views and criticisms of honourable members on them, I would just endeavour to impress on them that the programme we have provided for is as wide

as the resources at our disposal would permit. In the statement that has been circulated, I have referred to the limitations within which we have to work and explained the extent to which our hands are restrained in making our way according to our convenience. I would not take the time of the members by repeating them, but would once again request them to keep these limitations in view in examining the endeavours of Government towards the industrial advancement of the province. Bengal is pre-eminently an agricultural country and about 90 per cent. of her population depend on cultivation of the soil for their livelihood. They are the main producers of the country's wealth, but as a community they are sunk in abject poverty. Their standard of living is extremely low, lower than that of any civilised community anywhere else in the world. These illiterate, indebted, ill-fed, ill-clad, ill-housed and disease-stricken millions are the real nation living in our villages. To drag them out of the rut and to uplift them is the most patriotic work that a true nationalist can devote himself to. As the guardian of the welfare of the people, Government has taken upon itself the task of ameliorating their condition in all possible ways. A serious attempt is being made to rescue them from illiteracy and ignorance and to make their common avocation, agriculture, more paying than it has hitherto been. But the main item in the programme of their uplift must be to provide for them suitable cottage industries which they may engage themselves in either as subsidiary avocations during the months of their enforced idleness on account of suspension of agricultural activities, or even as wholetime independent occupations, and also to encourage and organize large-scale industries that will give employment to a large section of the agriculturists as labourers, thus relieving the heavy pressure on the land to a certain extent. In fact, the key to the solution of the economic problem we are faced with is the industrialisation of the country as rapidly as possible. Every step that is being taken by the Department of Industries in this province is directed to these ends. In spite of our obvious handicaps and in spite of all that critics might say to the contrary, there is no denying the fact that the contribution of the Government towards the industrial progress of the province has not been insignificant. Wherever you may look to, you will be glad to observe that many people have learnt to think and enquire about the industries of the province. This intelligent interest in the industrial future of the province, this watchfulness and this awakening, are our rewards. It is, I should imagine, no small achievement. This nascent consciousness is bound to develop into a dynamic force in the fullness of time, and once we have succeeded in creating it, we may view the future with hope and optimism.

Coming to the individual schemes included in the budget, I would first of all refer to the scheme for the marketing of cottage industry

products in Bengal at an estimated expenditure of Rs. 2,26,600. For one single scheme this is no doubt a high estimate but even so, this, I would submit, is just the beginning of a really big scheme which we have in view. The scheme is based mainly on the recommendations of the Bengal Industrial Survey Committee and on its success would depend its further expansion. It would be rather late in the day for me to seek to emphasise the importance of an efficient marketing structure, particularly in a province like ours where the small and cottage industries of slender resources constitute a very vital part of its economic life. The individual units of these industrial enterprises are quite insignificant in their dimensions, but the sum total of their output is by no means small. As revealed by the detailed surveys of only some of the more important cottage and small industries, their total annual output exceeds Rs. 15 crores in value annually. But the economic position of these industries is very unsatisfactory, for their production is unorganised, their working methods are in most cases crude and antiquated and the marketing is largely controlled by middlemen. I have no axe to grind against the middlemen, nor do I underestimate the services they render in their own way by the provision of credit. But you will agree with me that they have not been always as sympathetic to the resourceless artisans and craftsmen as they ought to have been, that they have not always paid adequately for their skilled labour and that their methods have seldom been unsullied by motives for exploitation. Unless the artisans, craftsmen and the small producers get a fair price for their products wherefrom would come their incentive to improve and their ability to hold their own in a competitive market? The present scheme intends to remove this handicap and to provide them with the means to produce better and sell better. The scheme, I must make it clear, does not cover the entire areas of Bengal or all the important cottage industries but, as I have already explained, on the basis of the results obtained from the operation of the scheme, we should enlarge it or initiate a more comprehensive programme as and when necessary. I trust the honourable members fully realise how very difficult is the task we have taken in hand. It involves an assault on strong vested interests and without the fullest measure of co-operation from the people the scheme can never succeed. I do hope that the honourable members, whose local influence is undoubted, will be pleased to lend their good offices in assisting the measure towards success.

The scheme I have just now referred is to embrace a wide scope, but this is not the first time that the question of marketing has received the attention of the Government. In fact we have been long making endeavours to help the marketing of cottage and small products through a small marketing organisation, and it has been possible to establish business contacts not only in the different parts of India but

even overseas as a result of the efforts of this organisation. It may please the honourable members to know that the products of the cottage industries of Bengal may now be seen in South Africa, Australia, New Zealand and many other places where they were hitherto unknown. The volume of trade at the present moment may not be very big, but we can confidently expect that this will lead to a steady flow of business.

Standardisation of production is an essential pre-requisite for the development of any industry. In our small and cottage industries this is a rare virtue and it constitutes a positive disadvantage for them in a competitive market. What is necessary to remove this unsatisfactory state of affairs is the constant application of research towards the improvement of productive techniques. But for such small units to have their own arrangements for research is unthinkable, and therefore, it is of utmost importance that results of research, both in the direction of improved appliances as well as efficient implements, ought to be made available to them. There is already a very well-equipped laboratory for this purpose, but more intensive researches must be made with reference to specific industries with a view to building up, when resources should permit, a full-fledged Technological Institute. A beginning is being made with ceramics which has abundant possibilities ahead and needs technical assistance more than any other industry. The Institute which we hope to build will provide for research and training and is expected to remove a most formidable handicap of the industry.

The weaving industry, particularly handloom weaving, has come very much to the forefront due to the recent appointment of a Fact-Finding Committee by the Government of India. This industry has been engaging the attention of the Government for the last four decades. Our organisation for helping the industry by providing technical assistance can be regarded as fairly comprehensive and if in spite of it the industry suffers, the reasons are to be sought in the interplay of economic forces over which we have little or no control. I have often heard of grievances against the Government about their lukewarm interest in the industry. I might assure honourable members that nothing could have been further from the truth. Government turned to this industry long before any non-official organisation had seriously thought of it, and I may be permitted to observe, not without a sense of regret, that co-operation from the public in the matter of the revival of the handloom weaving industry has never been forthcoming in the measure in which one might expect. It is not my purpose to find fault with anybody—all that is wanted is co-operation and more co-operation. The peripatetic weaving schools, which constitute a very important link in the chain of our organisation for providing training in the villages, are being further reorganised while provision for awarding grant for deserving institutions has also been made. For

higher training, the Bengal Textile Institute at Serampore has been developed into a full-fledged textile technological institute with a most up-to-date range of equipments. With a view to making the training as practical as possible and suited to the requirements of the trade; the Director of Industries has recently initiated negotiations with the Bengal Mill-owners' Association who have agreed to offer their assistance not only in the matter of preparation of a syllabus of studies and regulation of training but, what is more important, in considering the possibilities for their employment if they are satisfied about their efficiency and attainments. The member-mills of the Association are, as you know, the biggest employers and if they are pleased to look kindly to the Institute and take interest in its affairs, it will certainly be able to serve the cause of the industry in a still better way, and, at the same time, the students will also have an opportunity of practical application of their training. The Bengal Mill-owners' Association certainly deserves our thanks for the promise of their assistance which the Government welcome with pleasure and hope that useful results will flow out of our concerted endeavours. As in the case of cotton, so also in regard to jute, we approached the Indian Jute Mills' Association. The scheme for the training of the jute mill operatives was placed before the Association and their opinion was obtained about the plant and machinery proposed to be installed. It is contemplated to consult the Association almost at every material stage so that we may be sure of the steps we are taking and more because the members of the Association are the prospective employers. The Association has been good enough to give us the assurance that in the event of vacancies occurring in the mills in such avenues of employment which are suitable for these trainees in the Institute, first considration will be given to the claims of such of the candidates as are trained in the Institute. We have reasons to feel satisfaction over these developments as they open out opportunities before the young students and at the same time help us to attain the objects for which the schemes have been introduced. It is our intention to keep the closest touch with the trade and formulate the details of study strictly according to the requirements of the industry so that the training we seek to give may be of really practical usefulness.

Corresponding to the Bengal Textile Institute we have the Silk Technological Institute at Berhampore which imparts training in silk technology. The Silk Institute is the only one of its kind in India and possesses most up-to-date equipment, and to give it the finishing touch a provision of Rs. 29,215 has been made in the budget. The students who will be turned out by the Institute will be equipped with a comprehensive knowledge, both theoretical and practical, about silk technology, and may be placed in responsible positions in the silk manufacturing concerns, or if they choose to start business of their own.

They will have enough experience for that. The machinery that we have at the Institute has enabled us to prepare and submit counter-samples against the requirements of the Army for approval, and we confidently hope that we should be able to render substantial assistance to the industry in the near future.

There is one scheme in the budget to which I would like to draw your particular attention. I refer to the scheme for testing the commercial possibilities of hand-made paper manufacture as a small scale industry. You will be happy to learn that the raw material intended to be used in this scheme is the water-hyacinth. As a result of the experiments carried out in the Department of Industries, it has been possible to evolve a process for the manufacture of paper and boards from water-hyacinth, but the commercial possibilities have not yet been tested. If it is found on test that paper of good quality is capable of being made from the plant, it will solve one of the most formidable problems that faces us to-day by providing a means for the economic utilisation of what was hitherto thought to be an unmixed evil. The demonstrations already given in the districts have evoked a considerable interest, and if we are able to show that the methods are within the resources of the average villager and are calculated to yield a reasonable profit I feel sure that the villager will take to the business with alacrity.

Another scheme which must have pleased the honourable members is the scheme for the revival of the Fisheries Department. The House will recall that some years ago we requisitioned the services of a Fishery Expert from Madras to investigate into the possibilities of the fishery industry in Bengal. The report of the Expert indicated that such possibilities exist in an abundant measure and accordingly Government have decided to revive the Department. The abolition of the Fisheries Department some years ago was not viewed with grace by the public and, indeed, the demand for its revival was pressed with increasing emphasis during the last few years. Government themselves recognised the necessity of such a Department, but they were not able to take any effective steps to this end due to financial handicap. I am, however, happy to inform the honourable members that it has been possible this year to provide funds for its revival. While in some of the other provinces such a Department exists and is doing excellent work in the development of their fish resources, it was very desirable that in Bengal, where fish is an important ingredient in the dietary of the people, where the possibilities of developing fish resources and certain allied industries are indeed very promising, a fully equipped Department should exist. I hope honourable members will view with satisfaction the revival of the Fisheries Department and assist the Government with their advice and suggestions for its successful working.

Sir, I have just given a general outline of the provisions in the budget and referred to the more important of the schemes which are likely to be of general interest. In the statement that I have circulated I have explained the details. I do not claim that we have been able to achieve all that should have been achieved. In fact, our achievements do fall far short of our requirements. But I may assure the House that the problems connected with the industrial development of the province have been engaging our best and sustained consideration.

Sir, I shall not take up more of your time. It is obvious that no budget provision of a single year can meet the full requirements of a province. Our needs are large and expansive. Industrial progress can be achieved only by well-thought-out, long period planning. One year's budget provision can only add a plank in the growing structure of our industrial development. If our present budget does not meet all our requirements, it provides all the same for a substantial step forward. The possibilities of the schemes we are already working are being gradually realised. The benefits may not be widely known or felt as yet, but there is no doubt that they are being reaped by thousands of our industrial workers in rural as well as urban areas. The Government are coming more and more into the economic life of the province, and the public are growing more and more industrially minded. We have laid our plans well, and we are expecting that in years to come the cumulative effects of our activities will bear ample fruit, in the shape of a more diversified and a more effective industrial development of the province.

With these words, Sir, I commend my motion for the acceptance of the House.

Mr. SURENDRA NATH BISWAS: Sir, I beg to move that the demand of Rs. 19,19,000 for expenditure under the head "43—Industries—Industries" be reduced by Rs. 100.

Mr. SPEAKER: There is just one matter to which the House may agree. Mr. Biswas has moved a cut motion that the demand be reduced by Rs. 100, but I find that there are four or five very important issues, namely, issues about war industries, planned scheme of rural and cottage industries, the Fisheries Department, etc. These issues are more or less of an identical nature and may be discussed on the same cut motion.

Mr. SURENDRA NATH BISWAS: Sir, I want to raise a discussion about the development of indigenous industry in general and of rural and cottage industries in particular. I have just heard with rapt attention and pleasure the flourishing statement of the Hon'ble Minister. Like other years, this year also the Hon'ble Minister has

given us an assurance that they will do more for industries, although they have not been able to do much. I thank the Hon'ble Minister for having confessed that neither he nor his Department has been able to do much about the development of industries. It is useless to strike a fallen enemy (Laughter.); so I shall not indulge in abuses or bitter criticisms against the Minister and his Department. But, Sir, I cannot help submitting that in spite of the richness of the statement and in spite of the big promises underlying the statement, I do not find any clearly defined policy behind the development of industries. Sir, I view industry from two points of view. One feature of industry is to produce national wealth—not only to produce the necessaries of life of the people living in this country, but also to produce some more to bring money from outside by selling them. This is one feature. The other feature is to give employment to those persons who are otherwise unemployed. These are the two main features.

Now, Sir, in the socio-economic structure of our province, I find that industry holds the second position in order of importance. The elementary necessity of a man's life is to get food, and to get food and other necessaries of life one must have some means of livelihood. In our province, what are the main scientific means of livelihood? In order of importance, Agriculture comes first, then comes Industry, then with the products of Agriculture and Industry come Trade and Commerce. Then, Sir, comes Profession and after that comes Service. In this country, which is mostly agricultural, Agriculture has got a very important part to play. It not only engages the major portion of the population by giving them their means of livelihood, but it also produces our food and raw materials for the purpose of Industry. We are fortunate that Bengal offers sufficient scope for supply of raw materials

Industry comes second in order, because it can give employment to millions and in the socio-economic structure of this country which has been built long centuries ago we find that these two means—I mean Agriculture and Industry—have played important parts. Sir, when we go to the village, we find that the skeleton of that socio-economic structure still exists to-day. We find so many cultivators in the village and so many industrialists—I mean artisans, weavers, potters and the like—and the village population is mostly composed of these people. This was the way how the socio-economic structure of this country was built. To-day, Sir, we find that not only we do not produce the necessaries of life in this province, but also our industries have been either killed or are dying. It will not be news to the members of this House to know that we consume about Rs. 13 crores worth of mill-made cloth, of which Bengal can produce only Rs. 2 crores worth. The rest comes from outside. We consume about 3 lakh tons of salt, of which almost the entire quantity comes either from Karachi or from elsewhere. We consume about 2½ lakh tons of sugar; that also comes from outside.

Then, Sir, the Bengalis consume mustard oil. The House will be astonished to hear that more than 50 lakhs of rupees worth of mustard oil is being imported into Bengal. These are the daily necessaries of life. For these necessaries of life, we have to depend upon provinces and countries outside Bengal. Cannot Bengal produce all these articles? No. We have got sufficient raw materials and still we cannot produce them. Why? Because we find the chief ingredient for the development of the industry absent—I mean the capital.

Sir, this is the usual state of things in Bengal. I can tell the House that many private enterprises have failed not for want of trained people, not for want of mechanical labour, but for want of capital. This is the main cause of their failure. I ask the Government: Have they given their attention to this aspect of the development of industry? I find from the budget, Sir, that no provision has been made towards this—neither for the development of industries to produce our daily necessaries of life or other big or small industries, nor for the development or revival of the cottage and rural industries. So far as capital is concerned, I find two provisions, one of which is the sum of Rs. 50,000 under the head "State aid to Industries." Last year also the sum of Rs. 50,000 was provided in the budget under that head. But in the revised budget only Rs. 25,000 has been provided. The other provision is of a sum of Rs. 40,000 provided for industrial credit syndicate. I know that it was an institution started under the auspices of Government. For what purpose? To finance small industries. Now that organisation was being given a subsidy of Rs. 20,000 a year. Four years have passed and only one year's subsidy has been granted to that institution. Two years' subsidy is in arrears, and I find a provision for the payment of the two years' arrears to that Institute. No further provision has been made; nor is there any other source through which Government may help industries. Last year I drew the attention of the Hon'ble Minister to this aspect of the case. You may train people. You may have many training institutions. You are spending about Rs. 7,22,000 for industrial education. Good! I don't demur to that. But what will the trained people do unless they get capital? I ask the honourable members of this House to consider this question. Many people have got themselves trained not only in Government institutions but also elsewhere. But whenever you ask them "What are you doing?" they say "We have got the training, but neither do we get service, nor do we get capital to start industries." This is the state of things prevailing in Bengal.

Then, I drew the attention of the Hon'ble Minister also to the example of Japan. The development policy of Japan is not very old. It is only six years old. Within six years Japan has done wonders. How could Japan find capital? The Government of Japan could find

capital, because the only policy behind the development of her industries was to produce national wealth and to give employment to the people of Japan. That was the underlying policy which guided Japan to develop her industries. I shall presently show how this policy is wanting here in our province. Our Government do not look at the development of industries from that point of view. Had Government done that, they also could get adequate capital, and the Hon'ble Minister could have said to-day, "Yes, we have provided money and we are providing some other facilities for the development of industries including production of the daily necessaries of life." From sunrise to sunset what we ourselves consume every day we purchase mostly from other people. We are thereby getting poorer every day. Bengal's is the richest soil and Bengal was the richest province— "सुजला, सुफला, शस्य श्यामला धरणी" —but this Bengal has become very poor to-day. Why? Because the people of Bengal are the biggest consumers and even for obtaining their daily necessaries of life, they are sending tons of money outside Bengal. So, I drew the attention of the Hon'ble Minister to follow the example of Japan in finding money for the development of industries. But he paid no heed to what I said. I find from the report of the Industrial Survey Committee that they have submitted a proposal for a marketing organisation. That marketing organisation, they have said, involves investment of capital by Government or under Government patronage. They have submitted a scheme for Rs. 5,54,432, of which Rs. 3,50,000 is for capital to be supplied to the handloom weavers and bell-metal workers. They say that this marketing organisation will not be able to work unless it can supply finance. In order to protect the handloom weavers and bell-metal workers from the clutches of *mahajans*, the Industrial Survey Committee have submitted that scheme. They have reported that a sum of Rs. 3,50,000 is required to be advanced to the handloom weavers and bell-metal manufacturers of a limited area. I don't mind that. But where is the provision for Rs. 3,50,000 in the budget? I find that under the head "Marketing organisation" there is a provision of Rs. 2,26,600. But the committee have recommended a scheme involving expenditure of Rs. 3,50,000 for finance and more than Rs. 2 lakhs for organisation. I would ask the Hon'ble Minister whether any capital has been provided. I was telling the House about Japan. How did Japan find the necessary money? The Japanese Government started an Industrial Bank guaranteeing interest, and thus they induced the public to invest their money. That was how money came into the bank. Heavy industries and big industries of Japan have been supplied with finance by that bank. Besides, in many big industrial institutions the Japanese Government are shareholders.

Last year Mr. Abdulla-al Mahmood suggested the establishment of a spinning mill in Bengal. You will be surprised to hear that our handloom weavers and hosiery manufacturers purchase their yarn

cent. per cent. from outside Bengal. That cost them no less than Rs. 3½ crores. When I suggested, let a spinning mill be established with the help of Government, my suggestion was not accepted. But when a party member, Mr. Abdulla-al Mahmood, raised that question, the Hon'ble Minister rose up and said, "We shall give due consideration to it." Personally speaking, when I heard that, I arranged for a sum of about Rs. 15 lakhs to be subscribed, provided Government would subscribe Rs. 5 lakhs. But to consummate that proposal nothing has been done, and I do not know what the Hon'ble Minister will say to that to-night. I may remind him that the Japanese Finance Minister is a shareholder in almost all the big industries there.

For the development of industries, you are spending about Rs. 9,50,000 during the next year. You will find the details in the budget. I have no time to-day to scrutinise the details. I ask the honourable members themselves to look into the budget. The major portion of the amount budgeted for is spent on establishments, pay of officers, etc., and only a few rupees here and there for the real purpose. The Hon'ble Ministers often say in reply to what we say on this side, that we do not suggest any constructive programme, and that when we suggest anything, our suggestion becomes unworkable. Instead of saying that, they can easily reply to our discussions saying, "Yes, I have heard you, but I do not want to reply to you," because they have got the majority of votes behind them and they will be able to carry anything they like. But that is not the way in which a popular Government should move. A popular Government must have a definite policy. The industrial policy must be to produce national wealth. The policy must be to give employment to as many persons as possible. The Hon'ble Minister in his speech has started by saying that millions of our half-fed and ill-clad agriculturists are suffering from untold miseries and that Government would come to their help. What do they want? They want some food and to purchase that food they want some money. To earn money they must have some means of livelihood. You have already admitted that agriculture is no longer paying and there is too much pressure on land. But may I ask what have Government done to divert the agriculturists from the land? At least 40 per cent. of the agriculturists should be diverted to big industries and other occupations. What have you done in that direction? What have you done for the development of rural industries to add to the income of the rural people? I suggested to the Hon'ble Chief Minister in 1937 a scheme costing Rs. 5 crores. I suggested that a company with a limited capital of Rs. 5 crores for financing rural industries should be started to supply finance for rural industries and I wanted Government to subscribe towards the capital. I also said that if Government would guarantee the dividend, the required capital would be forthcoming from the public. Sir, I want the revival of cottage industries by pooling the huge man and bullock powers in the villages.

We have heard much that the man-power and the bullock-power of our country are being wasted. For six months the man-power is wasted, and the bullock-power for nine months——

Mr. SPEAKER: You are entering into a dangerous zone, Mr. Biswas: (Laughter.)

Mr. SARAT CHANDRA BOSE: When speaking about bullock-power he has been looking to that side of the House (indicating the Treasury Bench). (Laughter.)

(At this stage the red light was lit.)

Mr. SPEAKER: I hope, Mr. Biswas, you will conclude your speech now, and then Mr. Sasanka Sekhar Sanyal will speak.

Mr. SURENDRA NATH BISWAS: I shall conclude in a minute, Sir.

As my time is up, I shall conclude by saying that we will not be satisfied by a curt reply of the Hon'ble Minister that the suggestions we offer are impossible to be given effect to. Please do not do that. It will not pay you. The time is fast coming when you will have to face the people and tell them what you have actually done for them.

Mr. SPEAKER: I would suggest to the Leader of the Opposition to kindly consider one important point that has struck me in the course of this budget debate. From the experience I have had so far, I find that the fifteen minutes' time given to a member to speak is too short; but I am sorry to say that I am handicapped in the matter on account of the fact that there have always been a large number of speakers who want to speak. If, however, it is possible for all the parties belonging to the Opposition to agree, at least during the budget debate, that each party will select one member from its group as its spokesman and that no other member belonging to that party will speak, he can speak for a much longer time, if necessary, and do justice to the subject under discussion. Instead of putting up five speakers from one group, let one member belonging to that group speak on the subject so that he may get an opportunity to deal with the question as exhaustively as possible.

Mr. SARAT CHANDRA BOSE: We shall consider your suggestion and see what can be done.

Mr. SASANKA SEKHAR SANYAL: Mr. Speaker, Sir, to quote the Hon'ble Minister himself, he delivered a very good essay upon "industry" to-day, but unfortunately if it is to be accepted as an assay of fulfilment, I submit it stands out merely as a record of pious

platitudes and promises, and of little fulfilment. And, Sir, as against the inaugural speech of the Hon'ble the Minister my friend Mr. Biswas succeeded in making out a very strong case not merely in details but conceived in the fullness of his passion; and on behalf of the Opposition he has not only showed over anxiety to give constructive suggestions to the Government, but has also expressed disappointment that the Government is absolutely impervious to our suggestions, however valuable they may be. For the purpose of my debate I will only concentrate upon the question of development and introduction of war industries in our province.

Mr. Speaker, Sir, the Hon'ble the Minister's bulletin seems to be so unreal and the budget that has been presented on the "Industries" side is also so unreal because it is divorced from the context all around. In September, 1939, when war broke out, we were dragged into commitments so far as the war is concerned, and volleys after volleys of legislation reminded us that we were no longer in times of peace, but that we were in the vortex of war. From that time sensible people are complaining that we are being induced to commitments, but we are not being taken into confidence, so far as war preparations are concerned. But probably at that time Great Britain did not think that the war would extend over unanticipated horizons, and probably Great Britain did not expect the intensity of the war would also extend so much. To-day war is not only affecting the very foundation of the British Empire, it has not only attacked the citadel of the British Government, but the war has extended its arms beyond hills and climes which the British people did not apprehend at the beginning. To-day there is no denying the fact that India, at least Bengal, which is still considered to be a most valuable part of the British Empire, is on the verge of war, if the professions of the Government and of the spokesmen of the Government are to be believed. To-day we are being treated to black-outs; we are being warned about the preparations that may be necessary for digging out safety trenches; we are also being reminded that evacuation may be necessary. So, plainly speaking, if these warnings are sincere, if these performances are genuine, if they are real indications of the true things, then we are already in the midst of war. But the question is what have we done in relation to war industries? Mr. Speaker, Sir, the question of war industries considered in a narrow compass can be divided into two sides. It has actually got a side of fighting, and it has also got a side of the defensive and other preparations. I know, Sir, that so far as military preparations are concerned, we are handicapped by the limitations of the law, and that the Bengal Government have no discretion or independence in this matter. But all the same we feel that, and in this connection I would refer to your own Convocation address when you referred to the imperative necessity of taking up military preparations to-day. Now, Sir, if it be a fact that

the Government of Bengal is under limitations and that the final say in the matter lies with the Central Government, since territorially Bengal is nearer the war zone, we ought to bring every pressure that we can upon the Central Government to concentrate resources and schemes upon war industries so far as Bengal is concerned to-day. Reading from newspapers like an ordinary man in the street, I am made to feel that Bengal is in danger from the side of the Singapore base. We are also made to feel that Bengal is in danger from the side of Sikkim. We are also made to feel that the Burma front is not as safe as before, that is to say, from the suppressed news, from the driblets of the news that come out in spite of attempts to suppress them, we find that Bengal is in danger from at least these three sides. Well, this means preparations—preparations both offensive and defensive. So far as preparations for the offensive are concerned, even if it is not possible for us to go into the construction of a large number of aeroplanes, to go into the question of preparing dive-bombers, to go into the question of the preparation and manufacture of arms and ammunitions, Dum Dum bullets, etc., we must compel the Central Government to realise the necessity of the situation, and also compel the Central Government to start factories and industrial enterprises which can give us in the course of a short time all the necessaries for taking an offensive, if necessray. Here, the demilitarisation of the previous Government is still holding the day, and in spite of what the Hon'ble Ministers and other bigger men can talk glibly about black-outs and security trenches, the fact remains that we are still a victim of the old policy of the Britishers that we must contribute to their war preparations, but we cannot make preparations for our own safety.

Then, Sir, comes the question of defensive policy. Even if offensive is not permissible, our defensive is certainly necessary. And if we could know how to exploit the resources of our province, certainly to-day we ought to go in for the manufacture of a large number of anti-aircraft bombers, we ought to go in for the construction of boats at least analogous and parallel to U-boats, so that we could sabotage enemy ships when they come. We should take all defensive preparations and our industries should at once go to the full and see to the introduction and upkeep of such factories in course of a short time.

Then, Sir, apart from these questions, even on the question of the safety which is indicated by the black-outs and other panic-mongering measures, I submit, our resources can be exploited even to-day and we can and ought to go in for taking steps in an industrial way which will meet the exigencies of the situation. Jute has been talked to a point of annoyance and nausea on the floor of the House and outside, but has the Government of Bengal ever thought that this jute, this vexatious and annoying jute, can be used for the purposes of safety which is indicated by the black-outs in Calcutta? While sand-bags

have been a necessity not only in previous warfare but also in this war, we have sold our jute for the preparation of sand-bags for other territories. What has the Government of Bengal done with regard to the necessity of sand-bags even in this great city of ours? The great commercial houses, the factories, even the jute mills of the British vested interests can also be made to use the numerous bales of jute that are going abegging and in Bengal, in course of a few months' planned work, numerous industrial enterprises can be used for the purposes of manufactures of plenty of sand-bags. Well, so far as the Calcutta citizens are concerned, nobody will grudge spending some money for having sand-bags to be placed on the terrace of all the private or public buildings. This will not only mean an industrial enterprise in the direction of war, but it will make people work-minded, it will make them feel the necessity of grappling the situation, it will at the same time serve as a valuable avenue for utilising the chief resources of the province which are now causing so much vexation and annoyance to the Ministry in our province.

Then, Sir, I come to the other questions of market. You know, Sir, that whenever war breaks out it means a market for every industrial province. Apart from the question that Bengal is now in the midst of war, the war market is there which we ought to use to the fullest of our resources For example, Sir, our sugarcane factories produce not only sugar, but also a liquid in which there is a large percentage of alcohol. You know, Sir, that in Mysore alcohol is made compulsorily mixable with some quantity of petrol for consumption there, that is to say, the sugarcane factories in Mysore are not only profiting from the point of view of sugar, but they are also profiting from the point of view of alcohol which is being put to other subsidiary uses. Here in Bengal we have got plenty of mills. The alcohol that will come out of these mills will not only give us diversified use, but it will immediately give us a direct use in the matter of locomotive purpose. We can use it for aeroplanes, we can use it for other locomotive transport, and we can not only use it here but we can also by the processes of commercial undertakings send it to the direct war-affected regions for use and consumption. It means some industrial progress in our province.

Sir, when we read of parachutes in the foreign countries, we here feel the necessity and possibility of possible utilisation of silk of my poor Murshidabad and my friend Mr. Atul Kumar's Malda. Well, silk is a burning necessity in the international war market for war purposes. Why is it to-day that we cannot exploit silk for the purpose of construction of a large number of parachutes? We can sell them, if not to Germany, at least to our dubious friends to the left. It is extremely necessary for them. It will not be an act of grace or charity for them to purchase our silk for their parachutes. It will be a matter of vital

interest for them to come forward and purchase our commodities. It is only to-day that Government as usual is devoting leisurely attention to this matter.

Then, Sir, with regard to the question of ration, Holland has turned out bankrupt in the matter of butter. Ordinary ration not only for military purposes but also other purposes is running out in England and in the continent. Sir, if we could know how to use our own cattle breed, we could exploit the resources of cattle wealth. We could not only manufacture large quantities of butter and pasteurised milk, but we could put our milk to diversification of use and to the ultimate benefit of our province.

Then, Sir, we could use our industrial enterprises for manufacture of glass and electrical goods. We know to our cost to-day that on account of the war, glass and electrical goods have gone high up. Sir, it is necessary that Government should take the initiative in this matter and should go in for a large number of industrial concerns which will exploit the war market not only for the day, but which will exploit war market for the ultimate industrial acceleration of the province.

One word more, Sir, and that is about shellac. In the previous war I know in my district, in the Jangipur subdivision of which my friend Mr. Martuza Raza Chowdhury is the proud representative, while the price per maund of shellac was Rs. 70 to Rs. 80, to-day in spite of a bigger war, shellac is selling at Rs. 8 to Rs. 9 per maund. Sir, dye and chemicals and all these things are practically dried up in Bengal's market. We cannot only fill up our market for our own purposes by introducing chemical industries and dyeing industries, we can also sell them to the war market for easy and rapid use.

Sir, many other things could have been said, but as the blue light is there, I will try to conclude and, in doing so, Sir, I would appeal to the Ministers to consider one aspect of the matter. The Governor and the Government have been trying to raise war fund throughout the province. These contributions are more involuntary than they are voluntary. We do not know where these funds are going, but if to-day Government come out with a plan of setting forth industrial enterprises, not only will the contributions be voluntary, but that the quantity and the volume of contributions will rise. For example, the case of a poor man, which has been cited by my friend Mr. Nishitha Nath Kundu of Dinajpur, whose Rs. 2 for medical purposes was snatched away for war contribution, these two rupees and many other two rupees and two thousand rupees will be forthcoming. If they would tell the people of Bengal to-day that Government are going to undertake industrial enterprises which will not only be helpful for meeting the war situation but will also help the province in getting hold of the war market, then these people will come in their thousands

and millions just to constitute a limited company. Government may take the initiative. No money is necessary for the Government. Millions and millions of rupees will be forthcoming from all classes of people, and they will be glad to contribute their poor mite and, in this way, we shall have a nucleus of very helpful fund and with the help of planning committee let us go ahead in this direction and undertake enterprises which will be for the ultimate strength of the province and which will place the province on a royal road to prosperity. (Applause from Opposition Benches.)

Mr. J. R. WALKER: Mr. Speaker, Sir, I would like to say a few words on the main motion now before the House. In moving the demand for grant for "Industries" in 1937, the Hon'ble Minister then in charge said that "fish is the only principal diet to us Bengalis and the fish industry, I am sure, has got a great future before it, and it is expected to bring additional wealth and prosperity to the country if a proper survey is made by Government." The Hon'ble Minister went on to say that "Fish, which is sold in Calcutta, is sold at a high rate and fish is caught at all times of the year. It does not give the small fries the chance to grow up."

The promised survey has been made, but the facts remain the same. Fish is still an important article of diet for the people of the province, but it is still expensive. The fishermen are being exploited and to quote the words of the Special Officer—

> "In the general exploitation there is no co-ordination between the different interests, each vying with the others how to make the most profit. In consequence of this state of affairs, the fisheries are badly deteriorating and the condition of the fishermen is extremely unsatisfactory."

We have listened with interest to what the Hon'ble Minister has had to say on the subject this morning, but in the light of the report of the Special Officer, I submit, Sir, that the sum being voted for the revival of the Department of Fisheries is totally inadequate if it is the intention of the Government to tackle and deal with this problem seriously. Whilst it is realised that the question of fishery rights is a very complicated one and that the rights and interests of those engaged in the trade must be protected, the Government should try to take immediate practical steps to overcome the difficulties which seem to stand in the way of fish being sold in Calcutta at reasonable rates.

I understand it is the intention of Government to appoint a Director of Fisheries, who is expected to be a first class expert and also an administrator. I do not know the salary which is to be offered to the Director of Fisheries, but if it is, as I am led to believe, somewhere in

the region of Rs. 700 to Rs. 1,000 per mensem, I say that the right man for the job will not be found. An administrator might be obtained for Rs. 1,000, but to get an expert administrator for the same amount is impossible. I would ask the Hon'ble Minister to search the highways and byways and get the best man possible. This is a source of national wealth lying untapped which Government should do everything possible to realise, but it will be necessary on the part of Government to see that any schemes they put into operation get a fair chance, because all work which has hitherto been done has failed either through mismanagement or aggressive boycotting by vested interests. Unless the "Ring" which now seems to monopolise the industry is broken, the efforts of Government will be in vain.

With reference to the remarks made by my honourable friend on war industries, he will know, I am sure, that Engineering Works are working night and day on the manufacture of shells. Factories which hitherto have been employed on jute webbing for which markets have been lost are now enagaged in the manufacture of cotton webbing equipment. Apprentices are being trained so that the work of manufacture of shells and other war materials including the cotton webbing equipment is being extended. Black-out materials made from jute lined with paper and jute lined with rubber are also being manufactured in this province.

With reference to his remarks about sand-bags, sand-bags have hitherto not been able to stand up to the weather. Research has gone on. We have now been able to get over the difficulties and rot-proof sand-bags are now being placed on the market. The Government of Bengal are going to try from next week samples of rot-proof sand-bags, and I am sure sand-bags will take their proper place in A R P work.

With regard to the scheme for marketing of cottage industry products in Bengal, I have read with great interest the Bulletin on Hand-loom Cotton Weaving Industry in Bengal, the Report on the Survey of Brass and Bell-Metal Industries in Bengal, and the Interim Report on Marketing of Cottage Industry Products by the Bengal Industrial Survey Committee. Throughout these reports we are told that the artisans are at the mercy of the mahajans. The setting up of depots at an expenditure of Rs. 2,26,000 seems to me to be a very expensive way of getting the weavers and brass-workers out of the hands of the mahajans.

The objects behind this marketing scheme are admirable in themselves, but unless backed by enthusiasm, and I may say a certain amount of idealism, the whole scheme is bound to fail. I have had the opportunity of seeing such centres working in Congress Provinces. There the workers connected with the depôts and co-operating with the

spinners and weavers have been men who have been imbued with ideals for the uplift and welfare of the people, and although I may not agree with the economics of the movement, I cannot but admire the spirit behind it.

I understand that the Hon'ble Minister expects to establish the sale and supply depôts—two for brass and the bell-metal articles and two for handloom weaving products—in selected centres during the course of the year. Before that the right men have to be appointed, and this is going to be difficult in view of the fact that the posts will only be temporary. In these appointments, however, I hope that the recommendations of the Survey Committee be kept in mind, and none but men specially qualified for the work be appointed. It has been admitted up to date that the co-operative movement has failed to help in achieving what the Hon'ble Minister has in mind. In view of all the difficulties, might I respectfully suggest to the Hon'ble Minister to consider the suggestions put forward by an honourable member of this House, Mr. D. P. Khaitan, in his speech on the budget debates in 1937. He suggested that the merchants should be induced to put their hands to the business and, knowing the market, they could give the raw materials to the weavers and take from them the finished products and pay the workers on a piece-work basis which could be laid down by Government. Mr. Khaitan felt that if his suggestions were acted upon, there was no reason whatever why the handloom industry in this province should not improve. In the report which I have just mentioned on handloom weaving, it is suggested that the industrial co-operative societies should be brought into the purview of the Department of Industries. If this were done, then the suggestion of Mr. Khaitan could receive further consideration, because he said that if the co-operative societies could carry on their work along parallel lines with the merchants who knew their business, the co-operative movement would succeed and ultimately take the place of the merchants themselves. Government could supervise what the merchants were doing and also watch closely the work of the co-operative movement and decide when it would be possible for the co-operative movement to take over. After all, the Survey Committee have exactly in mind what Mr. Khaitan proposed when they say in their report that they look forward as a result of these experimental depôts, when their successful working has been demonstrated, it will be possible for Government to hand them over to commercial agencies or to co-operative societies of workers; otherwise they consider their scheme will have completely failed. If Mr. Khaitan's suggestions could be acted upon, a process is cut out and same ends are achieved, the workers would be taken out of the hands of *mahajans* and Government would not have to risk the possibility of losing 2½ lakhs of rupees. A study of the Report on the Survey of Brass and Bell-Metal Industry would show that it is possible for the workers to

be cheated on weights. Last year the Hon'ble Minister told us that he was considering the question of necessary legislation for the standardisation of weights and measures, and it would be interesting to know what the present position is.

Sir, the House will observe I have confined my remarks to Marketing and Fisheries. As the industrialisation of this province continues, so will the handloom weavers disappear. It has happened in other countries, and it will happen here. It is the inevitable outcome of industrial development. During the transition stage schemes designed to help the workers will, I am sure, always have the support of the members of the House but such schemes, however admirable they may be, will not help the people or the prosperity of the province. Fisheries in my opinion offer the best prospect of increasing the wealth of the province. Tackled properly, with business realism and not in any academic manner, it would improve the economic position of the people and province and even provide the necessary funds for those schemes which have only sentiment as a reason for their support.

Maulvi ABDUL WAHED : মাননীয় সভাপতি সাহেব, আমার বন্ধু সুরেনবাবু যে ছাঁটাই প্রস্তাব উপস্থিত কোরেছেন তা সমর্থন কোর্ত্তে গিয়ে দু একটা কথা বোলব। আমি শিল্প সম্বন্ধে যখন চিন্তা কোরতে যাই তখন সেই প্রাচীন কথা মনে পড়ে। বাংলাদেশ একদিন শিল্পে বহুদূর এগিয়ে গিয়েছিল, বিশেষ কোরে ভারতবর্ষ একদিন শিল্প জগতে সমস্ত দুনিয়ার আদর্শ প্রতিষ্ঠিত কোরেছিল। এই শিল্প সম্বন্ধে যখন চিন্তা কোরতে যাই তখন মনে পড়ে বাংলার বস্ত্র শিল্পের কথা। তখন মনে পড়ে ঢাকাই মসলিন ও কিশোরগঞ্জের তঞ্জাব কাপড়ের কথা। সে কাপড়গুলি আমাদের দেশের সতী-সাধ্বী রমণীরা যে মাকড়সার জালের মত চিকন সুতা কাটিত, তাহারাই এই বাংলায় তাঁতিরা তাঁতে বয়ন কোরত। সেই শিল্পকে কি ভাবে নিষ্পেষিত কোরে ধ্বংশ করা হোয়েছে সে কথা যখন মনে পড়ে তখন চোখে জল আসে। আজ মনে পড়ে সেদিনের কথা বাংলাদেশ যেদিন স্বাধীন ছিল। সে দিন মুসলমানেরা এদেশের নবাব ছিলেন। আজও দৃষ্টিতে পড়ে ঢাকার সেই মহা কামান। সেদিন মুর্শি-দাবাদে গিয়েছিলাম, দেখলাম তাল গাছের মত মোটা মোটা কামান পড়ে রয়েছে। এখনও মুর্শিদাবাদ নবাব বাড়ীতে যে সব যুদ্ধের অস্ত্রগুলি ইংরেজের হেফাজতে এগুলি আমাদের দেশেই তৈরী হোয়েছিল। একদিন আমাদের বাংলাদেশ তথা ভারতবর্ষ শিল্পে এত উন্নত ছিল যে একদিন জগতের সমস্ত লোককে শিল্প কলা শিক্ষা দিতে সমর্থ হোয়েছিল। মাননীয় সভাপতি সাহেব, আজ যখন মনে পড়ে বৃটিশ রাজত্ব এদেশে প্রতিষ্ঠিত হওয়ার সঙ্গে সঙ্গে বাংলার শিল্প ধ্বংশ করার জন্য বৃটিশরা কি ভাবে পশু মনোবৃত্তি অবলম্বন কোরেছিল এবং কিভাবে আমাদের দেশের সতী-সাধ্বী রমণীদের উপর পশুর মত অত্যাচার কোরেছিল, কি ভাবে পুরুষদের আঙ্গুল কেটে দিয়েছিল, সে সব চিন্তা করে আমার বিশ্বাস হয়, এই সব অত্যাচার, অবিচার, ও নিষ্পেষনের প্রতিশোধ নেওয়ার জন্যই বুঝি আজকে দুর্দ্দান্ত হিটলারের আবির্ভাব হোয়েছে। মাননীয় সভাপতি সাহেব, আজকে আমার মনে

পড়ে এই চারিটি বৎসর চোলে যাচ্ছে। এই চারি বৎসরে আমরা বাংলার আপামর জনসাধারণের হিতসাধনের জন্য, তাদের উন্নতির জন্য আমরা যতই পরামর্শ এবং যুক্তি দিয়েছি তার মধ্যে কতকগুলি কোয়ালিশন পার্টি ও ইংরেজ মেম্বরদের ভোটের জোরে উড়ে গেছে আর কতকগুলি সম্বন্ধে গভর্ণমেণ্ট বোলেছেন কোর্ব্ব, কোর্ব্ব। তাই আমার মনে পড়ে কবির কথা :—করিব বলিয়ে রহিলে বসিয়ে, করা কভু নাহি হয়, করণীয় যাহা, আশু কর তাহা, বিলম্ব উচিত নয়। আজিকার শেষ উপদেশ নেওয়া হবে কিনা জানিনা যেহেতু মন্ত্রীমণ্ডলীর নাভিশ্বাস উপস্থিত। আর বেশীদিন বাকী নেই। এর পরে গ্রামে গ্রামে ভোট ভিক্ষার জন্য দৌড়াইতে হবে। কালকে কৃষি সম্বন্ধে আলোচনা করবার সময় এইরূপ একখানা বই পেয়েছিলাম তাতে মন্ত্রীমণ্ডলী গত চারি বৎসর ধরে কৃষির উন্নতির জন্য কি কাজ কোরেছে তার ফিরিস্তি দেওয়া আছে। সেইরূপ শিল্প সম্বন্ধেও একখানা বই জারি করা হোয়েছে। মন্ত্রিরা এই সবই প্রকাশ করে এদেশের শিক্ষিত লোকগুলিকে ধোকা দিতে চেষ্টা করছেন কিন্তু আমি মনে করি তাঁদের সে আশা পূরণ হবেনা কারণ প্রবাদ কথায় বলে যে প'াজিতে আছে গোশালে নেই, সেইরূপ মন্ত্রিদের বইতে আছে কিন্তু দেশের সরে জমিনে বিশেষ করে সহর ছাড়া গ্রামে কোন উন্নতিমূলক কার্য্যের আদর্শই নাই অথচ তাঁরা বই প্রকাশ করে ছাই দিয়ে আগুন ও শাক দিয়ে মাছ ঢাকার চেষ্টা করছেন। বইয়ে আছে সমস্ত কথা কিন্তু দেশ খুঁজে দেখ উন্নতির কোন চিহ্ন পাবেনা। কৃষিও শিল্পের এইদুই বইয়ের দ্বারা মন্ত্রীমণ্ডলী তাদের অপকর্ম্ম ঢাকা দিতে পার্ব্বেন না। মাননীয় সভাপতি সাহেব, বাংলার আপামর জনসাধারণ এবং শিল্পের ও কৃষির দিকেই লক্ষ কোরে কবি বোলেছিলেন "ধন ধান্য, শষ্যে ভরা আমাদের এই বসুন্ধরা"। আজ সেই বাংলা দেশে না আছে ধন, না আছে ধান্য, না আছে শষ্য। যদি ধান থাকত তাহোলে রেঙ্গুন থেকে চাল এনে খেতে হোতনা। আর যদি থাকত শিল্পজাত দ্রব্য তাহোলে কোটি কোটি টাকা কেন বিদেশে পাঠাতে হয়। আজকে মনে পড়ে সে দিনের কথা যে দিন গত জার্ম্মাণ যুদ্ধের ফলে কাপড়ের মূল্য এবং অন্যান্য জিনিষের মূল্য পঞ্চমে ওঠার ফলে ভারতের বিশেষ কোরে বাংলার নরনারী কাপড় না পেয়ে উলঙ্গ হবার উপক্রম হোয়েছিল। মাননীয় সভাপতি সাহেব, আমার আর এক মিনিট সময় দিন। আজ সে দিনের কথা মনে পড়ে যে দিন ঘটনা চক্রে খেলাফৎ আন্দোলন কোর্ত্তে হোয়েছিল, কংগ্রেসের সঙ্গে যোগ দিয়ে ভারতের নর নারী জাতীয় শিল্প প্রতিষ্টানের জন্য দাবী কোরেছিল। এই আন্দোলন দাবাবার জন্য আমলাতান্ত্রিক বৃটিশ গভর্ণমেণ্ট নির্য্যাতন কোর্ত্তে কম করেন নি, জেল, ফাঁসী, দ্বীপান্তর কম দেন নি। আজ সেই সব আন্দোলনের ফলেই আমাদের দেশে আমাদের গভর্ণমেণ্ট, বিশেষ কোরে মুসলিম রাজত্ব প্রতিষ্ঠিত হোয়েছে বোলে দাবী করা হয়। আমাদের মন্ত্রীমণ্ডলী ধোকা দিয়ে থাকেন আমাদের দেশে মুসলিম রাজত্ব প্রতিষ্ঠিত হোয়েছে। (A Coalition member : না হয়নি।) তাই জিজ্ঞাসা কোরছি এই চার বৎসর দেশের শিল্পের দিক দিয়ে মন্ত্রীমণ্ডলী কি কাজ কোরেছেন। যে সব চেষ্টা কোরেছেন সবই ব্যর্থ হোয়েছে, তাতে দেশবাসীর কোনই সুবিধা হয়নি। সামান্য যে বয়ন শিক্ষা দেওয়া হোচ্ছে বাংলার ছেলে মেয়েদের তাও তারা কাজে খাটাবার সুবিধা পাচ্ছেনা। তারা টাকার অভাবে যন্ত্রপাতি পাচ্ছেনা। গভর্ণমেণ্টের তরফ

থেকে যদি এইসব যন্ত্রপাতির জন্য পুঁজির ব্যবস্থা হোত তাহোলে কাজে লাগতো। যদি মন্ত্রীমণ্ডলী দেশের শিল্পের উন্নতি করবার চেষ্টা কোরতেন তাহলে বুঝতাম একটা কাজ কোরেছেন। পাট বিক্রি কোরে বাংলা দেশের লোক বিদেশ থেকে কিছু টাকা পেত। কিন্তু পাটের দর এখন কমে গেছে। এই পাট দিয়ে বাংলাদেশে একটি কুটীর শিল্প, গৃহশিল্প গড়ে উঠতে পারে। পাট হোতে কেবল ঘরের রশি, গরুর রশি না কোরে যদি ঘরে ঘরে আমরা থলি, চট, সুজনি প্রভৃতি তৈরী কোরে নিজেদের ব্যবহারের উপযোগী কোর্ত্তে পারি তাহলে আমার বিশ্বাস যে অতিরিক্ত পাট বাংলাদেশে জন্মায়, তা নিজেদের কাজে লাগাবার পর হয়ত অবশিষ্ট অংশ উপযুক্ত মূল্যে বিক্রিত হোতে পারে। কিন্তু আমাদের মন্ত্রীমণ্ডলী এদিকে কিছুই লক্ষ্য করেন নাই। এখন এই বোলে দাবী কোরছি এই গভর্ণমেণ্টের আর যে কটা দিন বাকী আছে এর মধ্যে যদি কিছু কোরে দিতে পারেন তবে ফল ভালই হবে। অন্যথা ধিক্কার পাবেন দেশের লোকের কাছে।

Mr. MANMATHA NATH RAY: Mr. Speaker, Sir, I beg to move that the demand of——

Mr. SPEAKER: Mr. Ray, you don't move your motion. You speak on Mr. Biswas's motion.

Mr. MANMATHA NATH RAY: All right, Sir.

Sir, the demand for fish in this province is very great and ever-increasing, and the fish wealth of the province in its deltaic area is enormous, but the history of the Department of Fisheries of the Government has been very sad and disappointing. It will be remembered that following the enquiry begun in 1906 by the late Sir K. G Gupta, an investigation was undertaken of the potentialities at the head of the Bay of Bengal and the steam trawler "Golden Crown" was used for the purpose. The experiment, however, proved a dismal failure financially for various reasons—the resistance of the vested interests, the lack of cold storage, and the delay involved in transporting the fishes to Calcutta. Ultimately in 1923 the Fishery Department was abolished on the recommendation of the Mukherji Retrenchment Committee which reported as follows:—

> "We accept the unanimous evidence received by us that this Department as now constituted is without value"—note these words—"and recommend its abolition. When funds permit"—note these words again—"it may be desirable to create a Fishery Department, but we consider that the present Department is not worth retaining."

I do not know whether the Government is now sincere in reviving and controlling the fishing industry, or is it merely one of those instances in which the budget has been inflated just to find excuse for

the recent taxation proposals. Supposing that the Government is sincere, I would point out to the Government that it will be confronted with various revenue and economic problems. The vested interests offered stout resistance previously and they are not likely to give up their resistance now.

This Government in November, 1938, appointed a Special Officer to examine all the connected problems including the possibility of State control of fish industry, and he submitted his report as long ago as in December, 1939, but the wonder is that that report has not yet been printed or published or considered by the Government. Does it indicate sincerity on the part of the Government to help in the development of this industry? I will ask the Government to take note of what the Government of Bombay has done in order to develop this industry. It has utilised the services of fast motor launches and, in co-operation with the fishing community there, it has been so successful that private individuals have invested in similar vessels for the purpose of transporting fish. I do not know the present policy of the Government. The papers supplied by the Government do not give any indication in that direction. On the other hand, we find in the Blue Book, at page 365, that out of the total demand of Rs. 80,000 as much as Rs. 56,000 has been put down as contingency Is it fair to the Opposition who are never taken into confidence to withhold details of the very heavy amount of Rs 56,000 when the total demand is only Rs 80,000? Or is it that your scheme is not ready yet and you cannot furnish any detail? Sir, the question is of great difficulty. I was reading the Red Book which was published by Government incorporating the work of the Government during the third year of the Provincial Autonomy in Bengal, and I found from a speech delivered by the Hon'ble Minister at page 130 that the question of fishery rights is very complicated and involves many revenue as well as economic problems.

Before I conclude I must point out certain safeguards which have always to be kept in view in order that there may be a real improvement and development of this industry. You must combine technical knowledge with a comprehensive organisation; you must face with courage such revenue and economic problems as may come up; you have to free the fishermen from the tyranny of the capitalists and the *mahajans;* you have to bring about a fair adjustment of the rights of different interests possibly on the lines of the Bengal Tenancy Act, and last of all but not the least important, you must contribute to the augmentation of fish supplies and a reduction in the prices of fish.

Khan Bahadur Maulvi FAZLUL QUADIR: Mr. Speaker, Sir, I like to speak on cut motions Nos. 65 and 66, which stand in my name, but I do not like to move them formally. My intention is to place

before the House and bring to the notice of the Hon'ble Minister the crying need of weavers and the necessity of developing the most important cottage industry of the country.

Handloom weaving is decidedly the most ancient and the most extensive cottage industry in the country. Its origin is lost in antiquity and, judging by the numerous references in old scriptures and ancient literatures to many varieties of cotton and silk-goods made in homes and used by people, it may be confidently stated that handloom weaving in some form or other is the relic of the beginning of human civilization. There was a proverb, "When Adam wove and Eve span, who was then a gentleman?"

Even now Mug women of Cox's Bazar in the district of Chittagong and the women of Assam are still pursuing the profession of weaving and are not married until and unless they learn the art of weaving. But we became educated and civilized, and so we hate the weaver caste and do not make any relationship with them. This must go. We must adopt weaving as subsidiary or sole profession.

At present there are 81,260 weaving families and 196,611 workers. They manufacture cotton-goods worth about 5 crores. Each weaver can produce cloth worth Rs. 21 per month, but their income on labour does not exceed Rs. 10 to 15 a month with the help of their family members. Their profits largely depend on the mercy of *mahajans* who supply them with yarn on credit, and middlemen. There are very few independent weaver families who can stand on their own legs and make decent income.

I congratulate the Industry Department for introducing fly shuttle looms and replacing the old primitive looms. The following figures will show how the weavers adopted it rapidly for increasing production:—

	1921.	1940.
Total fly shuttle looms in use in Bengal	53,040	94,000
Total throw shuttle looms in use ..	97,954	42,300

In this connection I cannot but mention the name of Mr. Hoogewerf, the then Principal of the Serampur Weaving Institute, to whom the Bengal weaving industry is largely indebted.

Mr. J. A. L. Swan, I.C.S., stated in his Report on the Industrial Development of Bengal, 1915:—

"There has been a notable extension of the use of the fly shuttle in handlooms. This, however, does not seem to have been accompanied by as marked an increase in the prosperity of the weavers as might have been expected. The reason for this is that the great majority of weavers are in the hands

> of *mahajans* and middlemen. He advances the yarn and the weavers have to return the same weight of cloth and they are paid for their labour. It is obvious that when the weavers are so dependent on the *mahajans*, he is in a position to secure for himself the lion's share of any increase in profits. While this state of affairs lasts, there is little likelihood of the handloom industry being organised by capitalists."

It may be said that the Co-operative Department has organised some societies and trained the weavers in weaving on improved looms with the grant of the Central Government. There is an Assistant Registrar of Industrial Societies and under him there are marketing officers, weaving experts and supervisors. The designer distributed several new designs of marketable fabrics which the weavers utilised profitably. I have visited twice the Lady Abala Bose's Weaving Society for Women at Dum-Dum and am highly satisfied with the production and design. There is a great demand for the production of the Society, and it is easily marketable. Each member is earning Rs. 10 to 15 a month. I congratulate the Co-operative Department for this organisation.

The causes of success, I find, are threefold: (*i*) the Government capital, (*ii*) help of an expert teacher, and (*iii*) marketing officers are behind it. The Society members are not to worry for capital or disposing of the finished products. But such societies are very few in comparison with the number of weavers still existing in Bengal.

I therefore urge upon Government to advance a sum of Rs. 5 lakhs at least on the basis of short-term crop loan societies as industrial short-term credit societies and distribute the money through the Provincial Bank and organisers of the co-operative societies.

The Industrial Department should train the people and weavers and produce marketable fabrics, and the Co-operative Department should arrange for financing them by organising small credit societies and disposing of the finished products. These two Departments should work in co-ordination with each other and should try to develop the handloom weaving industry.

I like to say about the necessity of starting a cotton spinning mill in Bengal purely for supplying yarn to the weavers at a low profit. Existing mill production of yarn is not sufficient enough to cater to the needs of handloom weavers. Most of the cotton mills in Bengal have their spinning sections, but after meeting their own requirements, very little quantity of yarn is placed on the market. Necessarily, the handloom weavers have to purchase yarn imported either from other provinces or other countries

The total annual consumption of mill yarn by handloom weavers is about 28 million lbs., and the Bengal mills can supply about 16 million lbs. after meeting their own demand, and 12 million lbs. imported yarn is used by the weavers. So, there is no over-production, but on the other hand there is a great demand. If a cotton-spinning mill is established and Government purchase a substantial share and keep control over its management and supply yarn directly to the weaver societies on a lower profit, it would go a long way to uplift the poor weavers.

The Government always complain that members could not formulate any definite scheme which may be acceptable to the Government.

I therefore most earnestly and sincerely submit this definite scheme for serious consideration and acceptance of the Government.

The Hon'ble Mr. TAMIZUDDIN KHAN: Sir,——

Mr. SASANKA SEKHAR SANYAL: Sir, before the Hon'ble Minister replies to the general debate, I want to put him one question so that he may include it in his reply. Certain chemicals and dyes of the enemy firms were seized by the Government of India and were handed over to the Government of Bengal, and they were instructed to sell them to local purchasers without any large profit. The Government of Bengal employed Messrs Ishpahani and Co. as agents of the same. We understand that Messrs. Ishpahani and Co. are selling them at an unauthorized profit. If that is so, what is the attitude of the Bengal Government to that question?

Mr. SPEAKER: That is a matter for a question.

Mr. ABDUR RAHMAN SIDDIQI: On a point of order, Sir. Is it allowed to an honourable member to put a question in this form when you have already called upon the Hon'ble Minister to reply to the debate?

Mr. SPEAKER: He has done it with my permission.

Mr. ABDUR RAHMAN SIDDIQI: Can such permission be given?

Mr. SPEAKER: That I can always give.

Mr. ABDUR RAHMAN SIDDIQI: Sir, is it allowed under the rules of debate?

Mr. SPEAKER: Yes. The Hon'ble Minister has not yet begun.

Mr. DAVID HENDRY: Mr. Speaker, Sir, since this question has been raised, I should like to confirm that there is a great deal of dissatisfaction being expressed and a number of complaints being made about the high prices which are being charged to the handloom industry in Bengal for these dye-stuffs. As this matter is under the control of the Government, I think some explanation is due to this House on what is being done to rectify the position. I do not intend to make a speech, or to enter into controversial issues, but I have here a complaint which lends point to the very general dissatisfaction which is being expressed throughout the handloom industry in this province and which shows that the prices which are being charged to the handloom industry which have the fortune or misfortune of being under the wings of Government are such as are not justified under the present circumstances; I think some reassurance should be given by Government to this House on this matter which affects the poorer section of the industry in Bengal.

The Hon'ble Mr. TAMIZUDDIN KHAN: Sir, so far as this point is concerned, I shall make enquiries and later on give a reply.

Sir, I oppose the motion that has been moved. My friend Mr. Surendra Nath Biswas in his usual vein has said that even in respect of industry, the Government of Bengal has hitherto done almost nothing. He has cited instances in which Government in his opinion should have done everything but have hitherto done nothing. For example, he says,—What have the Government of Bengal been doing with regard to salt? My friend probably does not know that salt is not now the concern of the Provincial Government. That, Sir, has been taken over by the Central Government. (Mr. SURENDRA NATH BISWAS: I did not ask about salt, but about salt industry.) I also meant salt industry. So far as the Provincial Government is concerned, Government are prepared to give every possible encouragement to the industry, but hitherto the most difficult problem of the industrialists has been that they cannot manufacture salt that can be sold at a profit. Therefore, how to manufacture salt in the most economical way is the problem of problems. So far as that question is concerned, Government have a scheme under consideration for giving them the proper advice.

Then, Sir, what have the Government done, asked Mr. Biswas, regarding the supply of mustard oil? My friend does not know that the Bengal mustard is very poor in oil content, and, therefore, the oil industry in Bengal cannot prosper unless and until the breed of mustard-seed in Bengal is improved. For that purpose, the Department of Agriculture has taken adequate steps and if fruitful results ensue, then, I think, something will be done in this direction.

So far as the sugar industry is concerned, my friend has also referred to that—the industry has developed to such an extent that this

Government are reluctant to interfere. (Mr. SURENDRA NATH BISWAS: In Bengal?) I refer to India. So far as Bengal is concerned, if more mills are not established, Government will be hardly justified to enter into competition with private enterprise. Then, Sir, my friend is very unhappy because what Japan has done has not been done by the Government of Bengal, as if the province of Bengal stands on the same footing as the Japanese Empire, as if the Provincial Government of Bengal has the same control over its tariff and trade as has the Imperial Government of Japan. Sir, it is always easy to draw comparison, but can a Provincial Government like ours stand a comparison with the Imperial Government of Japan? The Government of Bengal has its own limitations, and I submit that what has been done within such limitations is the maximum that could have been done. I shall take into consideration some of the various suggestions that have been made, but the limitations we are labouring under must be understood by everyone in the province. It is no use ignoring them and the various handicaps we are working under.

Then, Sir, my friend, Mr. Sasanka Sekhar Sanyal, has referred to war industries. His speech was a very refreshing one, and I think so far as my friend is concerned he has revised his policy in politics, and now I hope he will be prepared to render every kind of help to the war efforts of the Empire. He has accused Government for not manufacturing or not helping in the manufacture of anti-aircraft guns and similar other things. It shows that he is advocating the cause of the Government of Bengal rendering every help to the war efforts. It gives me an idea that my friend at least, if not his party, has changed his attitude towards India's war efforts——

Mr. SASANKA SEKHAR SANYAL: Do you want us to die like cats and dogs?

The Hon'ble Mr. TAMIZUDDIN KHAN: But my friend does not know that so far as the manufacture of anti-aircraft guns and other war materials is concerned, that is not the concern of this Government, but they are the concern of the Central Government——

Mr. SASANKA SEKHAR SANYAL: It is only a convenient way to evade——

Mr. SPEAKER: Mr. Sanyal, it is not correct on your part to interrupt the Hon'ble Minister constantly in the midst of his speech, and it would be impossible for me to conduct the proceedings of the House properly if you go on interrupting in this way. It is no use

moving your cut motions if you do not want the Hon'ble Minister to reply to them. I would expect of you to exercise a certain amount of restraint so that the Hon'ble Minister may be heard.

The Hon'ble Mr. TAMIZUDDIN KHAN: So far as the manufacture of ammunition and other war materials is concerned, it is a matter which lies entirely in the hands of the Imperial Government, and the Imperial Government has been arranging that according to the requirements of the Army, the Navy and the Air Force. Sir, my friend has also said that the outbreak of the war gave a good opportunity to the province of Bengal to take advantage of the situation and to encourage industries. So far as that is concerned, Sir, I may inform you that the Government of Bengal has been taking all possible steps to encourage such industries, and in this connection I would like to mention a few of our activities. We have already secured a trial order worth Rs. 40,000 for the supply of blankets, and if this is successful, we expect a large order of Rs. 4 lakhs in due course, and that will give the manufacturers of blankets in this province a very good profit. We have also submitted tender for the supply of mosquito-nets, and we expect that our tender will be accepted; and if it is accepted, we expect to get an order for the supply of 25,000 yards of mosquito-net cloth woven by our weavers. Besides this, the Bengal mills are expecting an order of mosquito-nets to the extent of 50,00,000 yards. As to this article, the Government of Bengal has been trying to place the Bengal mills in touch with the Government of India for the purpose of its supply.

Then, Sir, Mr. Sasanka Sekhar Sanyal has also referred to the manufacture of silk parachutes. I can tell him that at present six silk parachutes are being manufactured, and when these are ready they will be sent to the Middle East, and if they are found to be suitable, as we hope they will be, then we expect a very large order for silk parachutes. I may also say that parachute flare is also going to be manufactured, and samples have already been sent to Australia. If these samples are found to be suitable, we expect a large order of this article also.

My honourable friend Mr. Walker has referred to the revival of the Fisheries Department, and he has remarked that the money provided for the purpose is not adequate. So far as that question is concerned, I am in agreement with him to a certain extent, and I should have been more glad if I could obtain more money. I also share with him the apprehension that the salary that has been provided for the Director of Fisheries probably will not attract a first class man. It will be a tragedy if we cannot get a first class man, but for the time being I hope for the best. My friend has also offered criticisms on our marketing scheme. I shall take those criticisms into consideration, but I do not

share his pessimism that the marketing scheme is likely to fail, as he apprehends. He himself has pointed out that the marketing scheme is not intended to be a permanent scheme at all. Sale depôts are proposed to be established, and ultimately it is expected that these depôts will be self-supporting, and when they are self-supporting, the Government officers who will be employed will be either withdrawn or made over to the societies. That cottage industries require help from Government so far as marketing is concerned, there are no two opinions about. And I hope that if the various agencies concerned give us necessary help and co-operation, the marketing scheme will be successful and will remove a great disadvantage from which the artisans of our province are suffering at present. Then, Sir, my friend, Mr. Walker, also referred to the question of standardisation of weights. So far as that is concerned, I am sorry that we have not been able to make much advance, not on account of any fault of this Government, but on account of the fact that the Government of India, although they have passed an Act, have not yet been able to enforce it, in spite of our sending repeated reminders for the enforcement of that Act. The reason given seems to be that they have not yet been able to prepare the necessary weights for distribution amongst the different provinces. Sir, unless that Act is enforced, we are at a great disadvantage. In the Agricultural Produce Markets Bill, which I intend to introduce in this session of the House, provision will be made for keeping sets of standard weights in all markets, but unless the Act passed by the Central Government is enforced, we shall not be able to do anything. I hope, however, that by the time the Marketing Bill becomes law, the Government of India will be in a position to enforce their Act, and we shall be able to give effect to all that is provided under the Marketing Bill.

Mr. SURENDRA NATH BISWAS: Sir, before the Hon'ble Minister concludes his speech, may I put in a question?

Mr. SPEAKER: I cannot allow this sort of interruption. The Hon'ble Minister will please proceed with his speech.

The Hon'ble Mr. TAMIZUDDIN KHAN: Sir, I do not wish to take any more of the time of the House in replying to the various criticisms that have been offered. I have circulated a note in which the activities of the Department have been set forth in a nut-shell, and in my initial speech also I have indicated generally the steps that we have taken and intend to take.

With these words, Sir, I oppose this motion.

Mr. SURENDRA NATH BISWAS: Sir, may I put a question to the Hon'ble Minister? He has not replied to my point.

Mr. SPEAKER: Order, order. That is not my look-out. If he has not replied, you can bring in a motion of no-confidence against him.

The motion of Mr. Surendra Nath Biswas that the demand of Rs. 19,19,000 for expenditure under the head "43—Industries—Industries" be reduced by Rs. 100, was then put and a division taken with the following result:—

AYES—30.

Abdul Wahed, Maulvi.
Abul Fazl, Mr. Md.
Ahmed Khan, Mr. Syed.
Banerji, Mr. Satya Priya.
Barma, Babu Premhari.
Barman, Babu Shyama Prosad.
Barman, Babu Upendra Nath.
Biswas, Mr. Surendra Nath.
Bose, Mr. Sarat Chandra.
Chaudhuri, Rai Harendra Nath.
Das, Mr. Monmohan.
Das Gupta, Babu Khagendra Nath.
Dutta Gupta, Miss Mira.
Emdadul Haque, Kazi.
Giasuddin Ahmed, Mr.
Gupta, Mr. J. N.
Hasan Ali Chowdhury, Mr. Syed.
Jonab Ali Majumdar, Maulvi.
Kumar, Mr. Atul Chandra.
Kundu, Mr. Nishitha Nath.
Majumdar, Mrs. Hemaprova.
Mandal, Mr. Jogendra Nath.
Mandal, Mr. Krishna Prasad.
Maniruzzaman Islamabadi, Maulana Md.
Naskar, Mr. Hem Chandra.
Roy, Mr. Charu Chandra.
Roy, Mr. Manmatha Nath.
Sanyal, Mr. Sasanka Sekhar.
Waliur Rahman, Maulvi.
Zaman, Mr. A. M. A.

NOES—83.

Abdul Aziz, Maulana Md.
Abdul Hafiz, Mr. Mirza.
Abdul Hakim, Maulvi.
Abdul Hakim Vikrampuri, Maulvi Md.
Abdul Hamid, Mr. A. M.
Abdul Karim, Mr.
Abdul Majid, Mr. Syed.
Abdulla-Al Mahmood, Mr.
Abdur Rahman Siddiqi, Mr.
Abdur Rasheed, Maulvi Md.
Abdur Rauf, Khan Bahadur Maulvi S.
Abdul Motaleb Malik, Dr.
Abdur Rauf, Khan Bahadur Shah.
Abdur Razzak, Maulvi.
Abidur Reza Chowdhury, Khan Bahadur Maulvi.
Abul Hashim, Maulvi.
Abul Hosain Ahmed, Mr.
Abul Quasem, Maulvi.
Ahmed Ali Enayetpuri, Khan Bahadur Maulana.
Alfazuddin Ahmed, Khan Bahadur Maulvi.
Aminullah, Khan Sahib Maulvi.
Anwarul Azim, Khan Bahadur Md.
Ashrafali, Mr. M.
Azhar Ali, Maulvi.
Bell-Hart, Miss P. B.
Birkmyre, Sir Henry, Bart.
Biswas, Mr. Rasik Lal.
Chippendale, Mr. J. W.
Das, Mr. Anukul Chandra.
Das, Rai Sahib Kirit Bhusan.
Dass, Babu Debendra Nath.
Edbar, Mr. Upendranath.
Farhad Raza Chowdhury, Mr. M.
Farhat Bano Khanam, Begum.
Fazlul Huq, the Hon'ble Mr. A. K.
Fazlul Quadir, Khan Bahadur Maulvi.
Fazlur Rahman, Mr. (Dacca).
Fazlur Rahman, Mr. (Mymensingh).
Golam Sarwar Hosaini, Mr. Shah Syed.
Gurung, Mr. Damber Singh.
Habibullah, the Hon'ble Nawab Bahadur K., of Dacca.
Hafizuddin Choudhuri, Maulvi.
Hamiduddin Ahmad, Khan Sahib.
Hasanuzzaman, Maulvi Md.
Hasina Murshed, Mrs., M.B.E.
Hatemally Jamadar, Khan Sahib Maulvi.
Hawkings, Mr. R. J.
Hendry, Mr. David.
Idris Ahmed, Mia, Maulvi.
Jalaluddin Ahmad, Khan Bahadur Maulvi.
Kazem Ali Mirza, Sahibzada Kawan Jah Syed.
Mafizuddin Ahmed, Maulvi.
Maguire, Mr. L. T.
Mandal, Mr. Banku Behari.
Mandal, Mr. Jagat Chandra.
Maniruddin Akhand, Maulvi.
Masud Ali Khan Panni, Al-Hadj Maulvi.

Morgan, Mr. G., C.I.E.
Muhammad Israil, Maulvi.
Muhammad Siddique, Khan Bahadur Dr. Syed.
Mullick, the Hon'ble Mr. Mukunda Behary.
Musharruf Hossain, the Hon'ble Nawab, Khan Bahadur.
Mustagawsal Haque, Mr. Syed.
Nandy, the Hon'ble Maharaja Srischandra, of Cossimbazar.
Nasarullah, Nawabzada K.
Patton, Mr. W. C.
Rahman, Khan Bahadur A. M. L.
Raikut, the Hon'ble Mr. Prasanna Deb.
Roy, Mr. Dhananjoy.
Sahebe-Alam, Mr. Syed.
Sanaullah, Dr.
Sarkar, Babu Madhusudan.
Serajul Islam, Mr.
Shahabuddin, Mr. Khwaja, C.B.E.
Stark, Mr. A. F.
Sinclair, Mr. J. F.
Sirdar, Babu Litta Munda.
Smith, Mr. H. Brabant.
Suhrawardy, the Hon'ble Mr. H. S.
Tamizuddin Khan, the Hon'ble Mr.
Walker, Mr. J. R.
Whitehead, Mr. R. B.
Wordsworth, Mr. W. C.

The Ayes being 30 and the Noes 83, the motion was lost.

The motion of the Hon'ble Mr. Tamizuddin Khan that a sum of Rs. 19,19,000 be granted for expenditure under the head "43—Industries—Industries" was then put and agreed to.

Adjournment.

The House was adjourned at 12 noon till 4-45 p.m. on Monday, the 17th March, 1941, at the Assembly House, Calcutta.

Proceedings of the Bengal Legislative Assembly assembled under the provisions of the Government of India Act, 1935.

THE ASSEMBLY met in the Assembly House, Calcutta, on Monday, the 17th March, 1941, at 4-45 p.m.

Present:

Mr. Speaker (the Hon'ble Sir MUHAMMAD AZIZUL HAQUE, C.I.E., Khan Bahadur) in the Chair, 8 Hon'ble Ministers and 174 members.

STARRED QUESTIONS

(to which oral answers were given)

Reconstruction work of Bengal villages.

***160. Dr. NALINAKSHA SANYAL:** Will the Hon'ble Minister in charge of the Agriculture and Industries (Rural Reconstruction) Department be pleased to state—

(*i*) what are the measures in outline that had been undertaken by the Director of Rural Reconstruction, Bengal, during the year 1940-41 for the reconstruction work of Bengal villages;

(*ii*) how many villages in the Province have been actually benefited by such measures;

(*iii*) what are the amounts of money spent under different heads in the Rural Reconstruction Department during the year 1940-41 (up to the latest available date);

(*iv*) what are the measures proposed to be taken by the Director of Rural Reconstruction in near future for village uplift work; and

(*v*) what special qualifications and experience, if any, are possessed by the present Director of Rural Reconstruction in the matter of rural uplift work?

MINISTER in charge of the AGRICULTURE and INDUSTRIES DEPARTMENT (the Hon'ble Mr. Tamizuddin Khan): (*i*) A brief outline of the principal measures undertaken during the year 1940-41 is given below—

(1) The training of local officers and non-official workers in rural reconstruction work, with the help of the Circle Officers who were trained at Bishnupur Camp towards the close of the

year 1939-40, in order that they might be able to rouse the consciousness of the people and prepare them for village uplift work.

(2) General training of the University and College students through a course of lectures delivered by experts, both official and non-official, on various rural reconstruction subjects.

(3) Co-ordination of the works of rural reconstruction undertaken on a voluntary basis through the enthusiasm of local officials and non-official organisations, such as eradication of water-hyacinth, excavation of new *khals* and re-excavation of old ones, construction and repair of roads, etc.

(4) Formation of village welfare societies.

(5) Establishment of night schools and promotion of adult education generally.

(6) Publicity and propaganda of the rural uplift activities in the Province.

(*ii*) Precise information as to the number of villages particularly benefited is not readily available but there is no doubt that the measures taken have already succeeded in creating enthusiasm and consciousness among the people all over the Province which is essential for the success of rural reconstruction work that will mostly have to be done on a voluntary basis.

(*iii*) The work is so far being done on a voluntary basis with practically no expenditure from the provincial revenues. The only expenditure incurred from provincial revenues during 1940-41 is an amount of Rs.1,500 given as grant for adult education work besides the pay and allowances of the Director of Rural Reconstruction and his office staff.

(*iv*) The Director of Rural Reconstruction has just submitted a comprehensive revised scheme on the basis of the advice of the Commissioners and the Co-ordinating Committee which is still under examination. It would be premature now to give out the details of the scheme at this stage.

(*v*) The present Director has considerable practical experience in rural reconstruction work. He has a record of practical work of outstanding merit in the line at various places, particularly in Patuakhali and Serajganj. He is also the author of "Rural Bengal" and other pamphlets on rural reconstruction.

Mr. SYED JALALUDDIN HASHEMY: With reference to question (*iii*), will the Hon'ble Minister be pleased to give us a rough idea of the amount spent on the pay and allowances of the Director of Rural Reconstruction and his office staff?

The Hon'ble Mr. TAMIZUDDIN KHAN: I want notice.

Mr. ATUL CHANDRA SEN: Will the Hon'ble Minister be pleased to state how many night schools have been established under the auspices of the Rural Reconstruction Department?

The Hon'ble Mr. TAMIZUDDIN KHAN: About 10,000 such schools have been established.

Mr. ATUL CHANDRA SEN: What steps have been taken towards the promotion of adult education?

The Hon'ble Mr. TAMIZUDDIN KHAN: Schools are established and people are induced to visit these schools for receiving education.

Mr. SASANKA SEKHAR SANYAL: With reference to answer (*ii*), will the Hon'ble Minister be pleased to state whether his department is kept in touch with the actual working of the rural units?

The Hon'ble Mr. TAMIZUDDIN KHAN: Sir, the department tries to be in touch with the work that is being done.

Mr. SASANKA SEKHAR SANYAL: Will the Hon'ble Minister be pleased to state whether his department has got any recorded information as to the number of places in which these units are supposed to be working?

The Hon'ble Mr. TAMIZUDDIN KHAN: The Department has got no detailed information.

Mr. SASANKA SEKHAR SANYAL: Sir, my question has not been answered. He has already said in the reply that precise information is not readily available. But the question to which I want an answer is whether his department has any recorded information about the places where the units are working and the details of such working.

Mr. SPEAKER: He has already said that precise information is not available.

Mr. SASANKA SEKHAR SANYAL: Sir, I do not want the actual information now. All that I want to know is whether his department has any recorded information regarding the places where the units are working——

Mr. SPEAKER: The difference is too subtle.

Mr. SASANKA SEKHAR SANYAL: Sir, my question is whether——

Mr. SPEAKER: You are asking a question which is impossible to answer.

Mr. SASANKA SEKHAR SANYAL: My question is whether the Hon'ble Minister's department has really any recorded information regarding the method, manner and places in which the units are working?

The Hon'ble Mr. TAMIZUDDIN KHAN: The department certainly has recorded information about the manner and method of working, but it has not got recorded facts about everything that is being done in Bengal.

Mr. ATUL KRISHNA GHOSE: With reference to reply (*iii*), is the Hon'ble Minister aware of the fact that the local officials have compelled many people against their option to take to excavation work and to do the repairing work of roads?

Mr. SPEAKER: How does that arise?

Mr. ATUL KRISHNA GHOSE: Sir, he says that all these things are done on a voluntary basis. My information is that some people——

Mr. SPEAKER: I have been telling you for the last four years that your information cannot be the basis of a supplementary question. If there is something definitely wanting in the answer, then you can ask a supplementary question regarding that.

Mr. ATUL KRISHNA GHOSE: Will the Hon'ble Minister be pleased to state whether it is a fact that the local officials have compelled many people against their option to do these repair works?

Mr. SPEAKER: If I were you, I would have put the question like this: In view of the answer that work has been done on a voluntary basis, will the Hon'ble Minister be pleased to state whether there is any information to the effect that there are places where it is not so done?

Mr. ATUL KRISHNA GHOSE: Yes, Sir, that is what I want to ask.

The Hon'ble Mr. TAMIZUDDIN KHAN: I do not believe that to be a fact.

Mr. MIRZA ABDUL HAFIZ: With reference to answer (*i*) (5), will the Hon'ble Minister be pleased to state when the report of the Committee on Adult Education, an important part of Rural Reconstruction, is likely to be completed?

Mr. SPEAKER: That is not his portfolio.

Mr. ATUL KRISHNA GHOSE: Will the Hon'ble Minister be pleased to enquire into the state of things in Jhenidah and Bongaon subdivisions where some of this rural uplift work is being done and where, according to my information, many people are compelled to do this work against their option?

The Hon'ble Mr. TAMIZUDDIN KHAN: Sir, that is a request for action.

Mr. ATUL CHANDRA SEN: With reference to answer (*c*), where it is said that the Director of Rural Reconstruction has a record of practical work of outstanding merit in the line at various places, particularly in Patuakhali and Serajganj, will the Hon'ble Minister be pleased to state what is exactly the kind of work that he did at Patuakhali and Serajganj?

The Hon'ble Mr. TAMIZUDDIN KHAN: Village uplift work.

Mr. ATUL KRISHNA GHOSE: Will the Hon'ble Minister be pleased to consider the desirability of holding an enquiry as to whether some people have been compelled to do this rural reconstruction work in Jhenidah and Bongaon?

The Hon'ble Mr. TAMIZUDDIN KHAN: I have no objection. If my friend is earnest, he may write to me.

Accused persons in Haroa case and interview by their lawyer.

***161. Mr. NIHARENDU DUTTA MAZUMDAR:** (*a*) Is the Hon'ble Minister in charge of the Home Department aware—

(*i*) that on or about the 14th December, 1940, defence counsel in the "Haroa case" obtained permission from the 2nd Officer of Basirhat to interview some of the accused, then in jail custody at Basirhat, on the same date along with a mukhtear, and a relation of the accused; and

(*ii*) that the defence counsel went to the Basirhat Jail along with the mukhtear?

(*b*) If so, will the Hon'ble Minister be pleased to state whether the counsel and the mukhtear were allowed to have the interview?

(*c*) If the answer to (*b*) is in the negative, will the Hon'ble Minister be pleased to state the reasons thereof?

The Hon'ble Sir BIJOY PRASAD SINGH ROY: The case cannot be identified from the description given.

Mr. NIHARENDU DUTTA MAZUMDAR: Will the Hon'ble Minister be pleased to state whether he addressed a query to the Subdivisional Officer or to the Second Officer of Basirhat with a view to identify this Haroa case?

The Hon'ble Sir BIJOY PRASAD SINGH ROY: Yes, Sir; without any attempt, we never reply in a defeatist way.

Mr. NIHARENDU DUTTA MAZUMDAR: Will the Hon'ble be pleased to state whether the Subdivisional Magistrate or the Second Officer has definitely written saying that the Haroa case is not identifiable.

The Hon'ble Sir BIJOY PRASAD SINGH ROY: I refuse to answer whether it was the Subdivisional Officer or the Second Officer or the Third Officer. That is confidential.

Mr. NIHARENDU DUTTA MAZUMDAR: Will the Hon'ble Minister be pleased to state what precise steps did he take to try to elicit information about the Haroa case?

The Hon'ble Sir BIJOY PRASAD SINGH ROY: The matter was referred to the local officers.

Mr. SPEAKER: Why not finish it by giving out the names of the accused?

Mr. NIHARENDU DUTTA MAZUMDAR: I am thankful for the suggestion, Sir.

Is the Hon'ble Minister aware that the case of the Emperor against Sudhangsu Dutta and a large number of other accused of Brahmanchak, Khamargachi and Haroa has been known as the Haroa case?

Mr. SPEAKER: Of course, I am not giving out any information, but was there not another case, Mr. Dutta Mazumdar? And it is quite possible for Government to be confused if there were two cases.

Mr. NIHARENDU DUTTA MAZUMDAR: Sir, if I put the question to the Hon'ble Minister, I want to know whether he would be prepared to give further information.

Mr. SPEAKER: You please write it out, and I will send it on to Government.

Bridge over Mahananda at English Bazar station ghat.

***162. Mr. ATUL CHANDRA KUMAR:** (*a*) Will the Hon'ble Minister in charge of the Communications and Works Department be pleased to state whether any road or bridge has been constructed in the district of Malda out of Road Fund?

(*b*) If so, will the Hon'ble Minister be pleased to state the name of such road or bridge?

(*c*) Will the Hon'ble Minister be pleased to state whether the construction of a bridge over the Mahananda at English Bazar station *ghat* is under consideration of the Government?

(*d*) If so, when is the work likely to be taken up?

MINISTER in charge of the COMMUNICATIONS and WORKS DEPARTMENT (the Hon'ble Maharaja SRISCHANDRA NANDY, of Cossimbazar): (*a*) So far, no such construction has been carried out in the district of Malda.

(*b*) Does not arise.

(*c*) Yes, the project was included in the programme submitted to the Government of India for approval last year but which was not sanctioned because it is considered that for the present Bengal should not expand the present road development programme.

(*d*) It is impossible to say at present.

Construction of road connecting Malda with Katihar.

***163. Mr. ATUL CHANDRA KUMAR:** (*a*) Is the Hon'ble Minister in charge of the Communications and Works Department aware that Malda is within the border of Bihar?

(*b*) If so, do the Government contemplate of constructing a road connecting Malda with Katihar?

The Hon'ble Maharaja SRISCHANDRA NANDY, of Cossimbazar: (*a*) No, I was unaware that Malda is within the border of Bihar.

(*b*) No. No such road is contemplated. It would only duplicate an existing means of communication as Malda is already connected with Katihar by the Eastern Bengal Railway.

Road development in Bengal.

***164. Maulvi MANIRUDDIN AKHAND:** Will the Hon'ble Minister in charge of the Communications and Works Department be pleased to lay on the table a statement showing how many miles of new roads have been constructed in each district of Bengal from April, 1937, to March, 1940?

The Hon'ble Maharaja SRISCHANDRA NANDY, of Cossimbazar: Government are at present paying attention to modernising and improving existing roads so that the mileage of *new roads* constructed by Government in each district has been practically "nil" during the period from 1937-38 to 1939-40.

Chittagong-Arracan Trunk Road.

***165. Khan Bahadur Maulvi JALALUDDIN AHMAD:** (*a*) Will the Hon'ble Minister in charge of the Communications and Works (Irrigation) Department be pleased to state—

(*i*) whether the Chittagong-Arracan Trunk Road was declared as Class I road by Provincial Road Board and India Government Road Committee, and if so, when;

(*ii*) whether an allotment was made for the strengthening of bridge in first, second and third sections of the road;

(*iii*) whether it is a fact that the work on the same road was long delayed by the delay of the Public Works Department in sanctioning the estimates of the District Engineer as approved by the Superintending Engineer;

(*iv*) whether the scheme was taken over by the Government and placed it under the Public Works Department, and if so, when;

(*v*) how long the Public Works Department was in charge and whether any work was done during the period;

(*vi*) whether the scheme has been again made over to District Board, Chittagong, and if so, when; and

(*vii*) to what extent the construction works have progressed since the making over of the construction to the District Board?

(*b*) Is it a fact that unless further funds are available, the construction works will soon be stopped?

(*c*) If so, what steps have been taken to place further funds at the disposal of the District Board?

(*d*) Have the Government been approached for sanction of funds, and if so, when?

(*e*) Is it a fact that at the time first allotment was sanctioned Government promised to grant further funds for the completion of the project?

The Hon'ble Maharaja SRISCHANDRA NANDY, of Cossimbazar: (*a*) (*i*) No. Government have not classified this road as Class I which stands for metalled roads according to the classifications adopted by Mr. King in his comprehensive Report on Road Development Projects in Bengal.

(*ii*) Rs.5 lakhs was earmarked in the first 5 years programme for bridging as much of the road as possible with this amount.

(*iii*) No.

(*iv*) Yes, in May, 1936.

(*v*) and (*vi*) Up to 1938, when the charge of constructing the minor bridges only on this road was made over to the Chittagong District Board.

(*vii*) The minor bridges are expected to be completed in 1941, the major bridges over Kalarpole, Dalu and Tankabati rivers have already been completed by the Communications and Works Department.

(*b*) and (*e*) No.

(*c*) and (*d*) Do not arise.

Introduction of free primary education in Jessore.

***166. Khan Bahadur Maulana AHMED ALI ENAYETPURI:** (*a*) Will the Hon'ble Minister in charge of the Education Department be pleased to state whether any attempt was made for constituting the survey committee for taking preliminary steps for the introduction of the free primary education in Jessore?

(*b*) If the answer to (*a*) is in the affirmative, will the Hon'ble Minister be pleased to state why it was given up?

MINISTER in charge of the EDUCATION DEPARTMENT (the Hon'ble Mr. A. K. Fazlul Huq). (*a*) Yes. It was at the time intended to establish a District School Board.

(*b*) It was subsequently decided to postpone the establishment of a District School Board.

Mr. MIRZA ABDUL HAFIZ: Will the Hon'ble Minister be pleased to state as to why the establishment of the District School Board at Jessore has been postponed?

The Hon'ble Mr. A. K. FAZLUL HUQ: In consequence of the fact that cess revaluation was undertaken in Jessore and it was found that there was a considerable drop in the income from the cess in Jessore, and therefore there will be a considerable drop in the income of the education cess if adopted on the lines prescribed by the present Act, it was decided to amend the Act and there were certain matters on which the Revenue Department had pointed out difficulties with which the Education Department does not entirely agree. I have proposed to hold a conference with the Revenue Minister and the Revenue Secretary and pending that, the establishment of the District School Board has been postponed.

Offices held by certain gentlemen in co-operative societies.

***167. Dr. NALINAKSHA SANYAL:** (*a*) Will the Hon'ble Minister in charge of the Co-operative Credit and Rural Indebtedness Department be pleased to state the various offices, honorary or otherwise, held in any co-operative society under the supervision of Government by the following gentlemen:—

(1) Mr. W. C. Wordsworth,

(2) Mr. W. Zaman, and

(3) Mr. Sanat K. Chatterjee?

(*b*) the amount of travelling expenses, honoraria or other emoluments, if any, drawn during the financial year 1939-40 and 1940-41 (up to the latest available date) by each of them?

MINISTER in charge of the CO-OPERATIVE CREDIT and RURAL INDEBTEDNESS DEPARTMENT (the Hon'ble Mr. Mukunda Behary Mullick): (*a*) A statement is laid on the table.

(*b*) I regret the information asked for is not available, as it refers to the internal affairs of various societies.

Statement referred to in the reply to clause (a) of starred question No. 167, showing list of persons holding offices, in co-operative societies, honorary or otherwise.

1. Mr. W. C. Wordsworth—

 Chairman, Bengal Provincial Co-operative Bank, Limited, Calcutta.

2. Khan Sahib W. Zaman—

 (*i*) Director, Bengal Provincial Co-operative Bank, Limited.

 (*ii*) Joint Secretary, Bengal Co-operative Alliance, Limited.

 (*iii*) Deputy Chairman, Co-operative Milk Societies Union, Limited, Calcutta.

 (*iv*) Director, Bengal Co-operative Insurance Society, Limited.

 (*v*) Secretary, Barasat Pally Mangal Samabay Samity.

3. Rai Bahadur Sanat K. Chatterjee—

 (*i*) Director, Bengal Provincial Co-operative Bank, Limited, Calcutta.

 (*ii*) Chairman, Barasat Co-operative Credit Society, Limited.

 (*iii*) Director, Bengal Co-operative Alliance, Limited.

 (*iv*) Chairman of the Barasat Pally Mangal Samabay Samity.

Mr. NISHITHA NATH KUNDU: Will the Hon'ble Minister be pleased to state whether these persons have drawn any emoluments or travelling allowance or honoraria from the societies?

Mr. SPEAKER: How can he say that? One of them is functioning in Calcutta and the others elsewhere.

Mr NISHITHA NATH KUNDU: Can he not, Sir, give us any idea as to whether they have drawn any money from the societies concerned?

Mr. SPEAKER: That is a matter with which only the societies are concerned.

UNSTARRED QUESTIONS

(to which answers were laid on the table)

Capital grant to the Bhairab K. B. High English School.

60. Khan Sahib HAMIDUDDIN AHMED: (*a*) Will the Hon'ble Minister in charge of the Education Department be pleased to state—

(*i*) whether it is a fact that Maulvi Kaderbox Sarkar of Bhairab Bazar, has contributed a sum of Rs.10,001 to the Bhairab K. B. High English School Fund; if so, on what terms; and

(*ii*) whether it is a fact that a plan and estimate for construction of the school building was approved by the Government and a capital grant of Rs.10,000 was sanctioned by the Government?

(*b*) If the answer to (*a*) (*ii*) is in the affirmative, will the Hon'ble Minister be pleased to state—

(*i*) when the Government propose to make the contribution; and

(*ii*) when the work is likely to be taken up?

The Hon'ble Mr. A. K. FAZLUL HUQ: (*a*) (*i*) It has been reported by the President of the Managing Committee of the School that a sum of Rs.10,001 has been deposited in the Imperial Bank, Mymensingh, towards the construction of the school building.

(*ii*) and (*b*) A plan and estimate have been received by the Director of Public Instruction, Bengal, but no capital grant has yet been sanctioned. The Director of Public Instruction proposes to sanction a capital grant of Rs.10,000 when funds become available.

Training schools for primary school teachers.

61. Rai HARENDRA NATH CHOUDHURI: Will the Hon'ble Minister in charge of the Education Department be pleased to state—

(*a*) how many guru training schools or training schools for primary school teachers there are in Bengal at present;

(*b*) in how many such schools there is provision for training the *gurus* in—

(1) Muslim religious instruction,

(2) Hindu religious instruction,

by the competent instructors;

(*c*) the names of the schools of the latter (2) class;

(*d*) whether it is the policy of the authorities that primary schools should be staffed with trained teachers as far as possible; and

(*e*) whether religious instruction is a compulsory subject in the newly approved curriculum for primary schools?

The Hon'ble Mr. A. K. FAZLUL HUQ: (*a*) 124.

(*b*) As far as possible in every school.

(*c*) Does not arise.

(*d*) Yes.

(*e*) Yes, but at the request in writing of the guardian of any child, such child is exempted from religious instruction.

Appointment of Honorary Magistrates.

62. Mr. SURENDRA NATH BISWAS: (*a*) Will the Hon'ble Minister in charge of the Judicial Department be pleased to state—

(*i*) whether the Provincial Government are considering the question of abolition of the system of appointing Honorary Magistrates;

(*ii*) how the appointment of an Honorary Magistrate is made; and

(*iii*) whether the educational qualifications of a candidate are considered before he is appointed and vested with powers?

(*b*) Will the Hon'ble Minister be pleased to state—

(*i*) what are the educational qualifications of the Honorary Magistrate posted at Rajbari in the Goalundo subdivision of the district of Faridpur;

(*ii*) what class of powers he is vested with;

(*iii*) what are the educational qualification of the other Honorary Magistrates posted at Rajbari; and

(*iv*) what class of powers they are respectively vested with?

MINISTER in charge of the JUDICIAL DEPARTMENT (the Hon'ble Nawab Musharruff Hossain, Khan Bahadur): (*a*) (*i*) No.

(*ii*) The Provincial Government appoint Honorary Magistrates on the recommendation of the Divisional Commissioners who consult their local officers before sending proposals.

(*iii*) Yes.

(*b*) (*i*) There is only one Honorary Magistrate in Goalundo subdivision posted at Rajbari—Mr. T. N. Sen, read up to I.A. standard.

(*ii*) First class powers.

(*iii*) and (*iv*) Do not arise.

Mr. SURENDRA NATH BISWAS: Sir, I wish to draw your attention to question (*b*) (*i*), viz., what are the educational qualifications of the Honorary Magistrate posted at Rajbari. The word "Magistrate" is mistakenly put there. It should be "Magistrates." And I want to know the qualifications of the other Honorary Magistrates."

Mr. SPEAKER: That question does not arise.

Mr. SURENDRA NATH BISWAS: Will the Hon'ble Minister be pleased to state whether Government have considered the qualifications of Mr. T. N. Sen who read only up to I.A. Standard to be sufficient for being appointed as an Honorary Magistrate with first class power?

The Hon'ble Nawab MUSHARRUFF HOSSAIN, Khan Bahadur: Yes, Sir.

Mr. SURENDRA NATH BISWAS: Will the Hon'ble Minister be pleased to state whether it is a fact that of the other Honorary Magistrates posted at Rajbari there are some who are not vested with first class power, while this particular Magistrate is so vested?

The Hon'ble Nawab MUSHARRUFF HOSSAIN, Khan Bahadur: I am not aware of that.

Mr. SURENDRA NATH BISWAS: Will the Hon'ble Minister consider the desirability of enquiring whether this particular gentleman has adequate qualification of being vested with first class powers?

Mr. SPEAKER: He has already said that.

Mr. ATUL KRISHNA GHOSE: With reference to answer (*a*) (*iii*) where the Hon'ble Minister has said "yes," will he be pleased to state whether there is any minimum educational qualification necessary for Honorary Magistrates?

The Hon'ble Nawab MUSHARRUFF HOSSAIN, Khan Bahadur: No minimum qualification is fixed.

Nature of replies to questions by Hon'ble Ministers.

Mr. CHARU CHANDRA ROY: Sir, we generally find in answer papers that Hon'ble Ministers always evade our questions in this way, namely, that it is not readily available. In answer to starred question 160(*ii*), you will find, Sir, that it is stated: "villages particularly benefited is not readily available... .." It is not a ready question; we gave notice of the question in due time. Generally, Sir, we find that it is stated in answers that the information is not readily available or that much time and much money will be necessary to collect information, or that the question does not arise. May we ask the Hon'ble Minister through you, Sir, so that we can get proper answers and not such excuses?

Mr. SPEAKER: You can't get proper answers to questions like this. You want an answer as to how it is being done in all villages in Bengal. I will ask you to come to this side and answer this question

Mr. CHARU CHADRA ROY: Sir, my submission is that there is a difference.

Mr. SASANKA SEKHAR SANYAL: The answer may be that there is no information worth giving.

Adjournment motion.

Mr. SYED JALALUDIN HASHEMY: Sir, I beg to move——

Mr. SPEAKER: You can't move it now.

Mr. SYED JALALUDDIN HASHEMY: But I have got your consent, Sir.

Mr. SPEAKER: Yes, but not for moving the motion. You give me a statement of facts.

Mr. SYED JALALUDDIN HASHEMY: All right, Sir. I have come back from Khulna only this morning. I did not venture to visit the affected area. I came back this morning only to inform the honourable members of Bagerhat of the seriousness of the situation——

Mr. SPEAKER: When did the occurrence take place?

Mr. SYED JALALUDDIN HASHEMY: On the 14th March last. It is still being continued.

Mr. SPEAKER: There is no date mentioned anywhere. You must be more specific in your statement.

Mr. SYED JALALUDDIN HASHEMY: Yes, Sir, it is mentioned in the statement itself. I shall read it out: "On the 14th March another serious riot broke out in Mollahat police-station as a sequel to the acquittal of Namasudra accused numbering more or less 100 from the Sessions Court of Khulna, charged under section 302 of the Indian Penal Code. The Namasudra community of Bagerhat subdivision were as such encouraged, so much so that on the 14th March another riot of a very serious nature broke out in Mollahat between the Namasudras and the Muslims. Several persons have been brutally killed, burnt in broad daylight and the entire houses of two villages Kalatola and Gangachanna, two predominantly Muslim villages, have been completely gutted. The riot is still being continued, and it is apprehended that it will take serious proportions. The Namasudras have been reinforced by men coming from the Gopalganj subdivision of the Faridpur district and other places."

Mr. SPEAKER: How far is it from Khulna?

Mr. SYED JALALUDDIN HASHEMY: It is more or less 20 miles from the town proper.

Mr. SPEAKER: By land route?

Mr. SYED JALALUDDIN HASHEMY: Yes, Sir, by land route, by rail and by boat.

Mr. SPEAKER: What is the nearest railway station?

The Hon'ble Mr. A. K. FAZLUL HUQ: There is no railway station near by.

Mr. SYED JALALUDIN HASHEMY: I cannot give you, Sir, the exact railway station.

Mr. SPEAKER: What is the basis of your information?

Mr. SYED JALALUDIN HASHEMY: I have gathered this information——

Mr. SPEAKER: Merely gathered?

Mr. SYED JALALUDDIN HASHEMY: No, Sir. I have also talked with the executive and the judiciary of the Khulna district who are now in the subdivision. The District Magistrate and the Superintendent of Police are there. I gathered this information from the police and from the Subdivisional Officer, and I take full responsibility for my statement.

The Hon'ble Mr. A. K. FAZLUL HUQ: Sir, on receipt of information of this rioting, the District Magistrate and the Superintendent at once hastened to the locality, and I understand that they are still there. We have not received any account as to what has actually happened, and I am not in a position to give to the House the authentic official version therefor. At the same time, I may point out that at the present time the whole matter is under enquiry and is bound to form the subject-matter of proceedings in Court. Whether it will lead to serving any useful purpose by members discussing it on hearsay report or reports received from partisans or whether it will not be better to wait and see what actually happened is a matter, Sir, which it is for the House to consider, I would respectfully submit.

Mr. SPEAKER: For the time being it is for me to consider whether I should hold this motion to be in order. I have now heard both sides, and I hold that the present motion is not in order.

DEMAND FOR GRANT.

37—Education—General.

The Hon'ble Mr. A. K. FAZLUL HUQ: Sir, on the recommendation of His Excellency the Governor, I beg to move that a sum of Rs. 1,68,74,000 be granted for expenditure under the head "37—Education—General."

Rai HARENDRA NATH CHAUDHURI: Mr. Speaker, Sir, I beg to move that the demand of Rs. 1,68,74,000 for expenditure under the head "37—Education—General" be reduced by Rs. 100.

Sir, there was a time not very long ago when the primary education system in Bengal was in the main a system of secular and non-denominational schools catering equally for the needs of all sections of the people of this province. There were besides special institutions providing elementary education on traditional orthodox lines such as *maktabs* for the Muslims and *tols* for the Hindus, but they were not

included in the category of general primary schools. This arrangement continued right down to the middle of the second decade of the current century. Earlier in that decade, enquiry was instituted at the instance of the Government of India as to how far it was feasible to introduce moral and religious instruction in our educational institutions, but it was found practically impossible to provide for direct instruction on such matters. The Fifth Quinquennial Review on the Progress of Education in Bengal edited by Mr. Hornell, the then Director of Public Instruction, observed: "The whole question of religious and moral instruction in schools in Bengal was, at the instance of the Government of India, considered in 1912 by the Government of Bengal. Conferences of prominent educationists and influential persons were convened both at Dacca and at Calcutta and the subject was thoroughly discussed. The results were, as reported by the Government of Bengal to the Government of India, such as to testify again to the practical impossibility of devising any effective scheme for the direct teaching of morality, whether associated with or divorced from religious teaching in schools and colleges in India." But, in 1915-16 the Government of Bengal decided on the advice of the Government of India that *maktabs* which were returned previously as special institutions should be included in the category of the lower primary schools, with the result that at the end of the educational quinquennium 1912-17, 6,546 *maktabs* with an enrolment 203,082 students were classified with 35,418 general primary schools with an enrolment of 11,71,809 pupils and came to be regarded as a part of the primary education system of the province. Since then a new epoch began in the development of the primary education system —an epoch which may be termed as the epoch of development of *maktabs* at the sacrifice of the general primary schools. For in the twenty years that followed, that is, between 1917 and 1937, the rates of development of *maktabs* and primary schools were as follows:—

Year.	General Primary Schools.	Students.	Maktabs.	Students.
1916-17..	35,418	11,71,809	6,548	2,03,082
1936-37..	35,778	14,78,688	25,739	9,81,819
	+360	+3,06,879	+19,191	+7,78,737

In other words, *maktabs* were all allowed to increase at the rate of about 2,460 per one lakh students, while general primary schools were suffered to increase only at the rate of about 180 per one lakh pupils.

Sir, in pointing out the phenomenal growth of *maktabs*, it is not my object to criticise or condemn it. For, however regrettable it may be that Muslim Bengal chose not to admit a large proportion of their boys and girls into the general system, in which there were opportunities for the children of both communities to mix with and know one another,

one must concede that a community was entitled to have such a type of religious or cultural instruction for its children as it might consider essential for their proper education. But in that case the other important community or communities have equal right to demand that adequate provision must be made for the education of their children free from those special influences which a particular community may consider it a virtue to foster. But however patent the truth of the proposition might be, it was exactly what came to be denied and what continues to be denied in regulating the growth of the general primary system. That the general primary system is even now, after the enforcement of the Rural Primary Education Act, not being allowed to expand properly is evident from the fact that for want of general primary schools non-Muslim students, boys and girls, find themselves compelled, in larger and yet larger numbers to read in *maktabs*.

Sir, in September, 1937, I interpellated the Hon'ble Chief Minister on this subject just to ascertain how many Hindu boys were reading in *maktabs*, and Sir, lately, that is, in the current session, I put in another question to ascertain the present enrolment of Hindu boys and girls in *maktabs*. The answers to these questions reveal that the progress of enrolment of Hindu boys and girls in *maktabs* between September, 1937, and March, 1940, has been as follows:—

In the Chittagong Division, in September, 1937, 5,905 Hindu students were reading in *maktabs* and in March, 1940, the number has grown to 13,949, that is, there has been an increase of Hindu students reading in *maktabs* by 8,044. In the Dacca Division, in September, 1937, that is, the date on which the answer to my first question was given by the Education Minister, there were 11,085 Hindu pupils reading in *maktabs*, but in March, 1940, there were as many as 21,514 Hindu students, boys and girls, reading in *maktabs*, that is, an increase in enrolment of 10,429. In the Rajshahi Division, in September, 1937, the number of Hindu students reading in *maktabs* was 5,669 (excluding Darjeeling), but in March, 1940, the number went up to 21,227, that is, by 15,476. In the Presidency Division, the number of Hindu students reading in *maktabs* in September, 1937, was 3,260 whereas in March, 1940, the number was 10,062, that is, an increase in the enrolment of Hindu students in *maktabs* by 6,802. In the Burdwan Division, in September, 1937, there were 6,220 Hindu students, boys and girls, reading in *maktabs*. In March, 1940, the number went up to 7,744, that is by 1,524. On the whole, where there were 32,149 Hindu students reading in *maktabs* in September, 1937, the number of such students reading in *maktabs* in March, 1940, has gone up to 74,506, that is by 42,357.

Sir, it may be asked what in particular are our objections to *maktabs*? I shall answer the question by the counter-question, what are the

reasons of the Muslim preference for *maktabs?* Anybody who is prepared to consider the question dispassionately will find the answer in the points for preference. *Maktabs* have been invariably described even in recent official reports as "primary schools on an Islamic basis intended for Muslim scholars." "The syllabus taught in them," it is said, "does not differ materially from the primary school syllabus, except that books by Muslim authors are generally prescribed and the reading of the Holy Quoran and training in Islamic rituals and Urdu are additional compulsory subjects for Muslims." If that be so, how can non-Muslims and Hindus in particular find institutions with such religion environment and cultural preference as congenial to the education of their children? Why must they be compelled to read books written exclusively by Muslim authors—for, who does not know that "generally" here means exclusively—in a language which can only be described as perverted or mongrel Bengali? Why must the non-Muslim boys sit idle when Muslim boys are receiving religious instructions and instructions in Urdu? It will not do to say that is an old definition of *maktabs*. For even after the much advertised unified curriculum such description of *maktabs* not only holds good, but is given in the official statements. In reply to one of my questions in September, 1937, the Hon'ble Chief Minister, *i.e.*, the Minister for Education, described the *maktabs* as "Muslim primary schools" where "the reading of the Holy Quoran, the Rituals of Islam and Urdu are specially meant for Muslim pupils and vernacular and historical readers written by Muhammadan authors are used." Here it is not said, generally used, and I take it therefore that such readers are exclusively used in *maktabs*.

Further, if it be true as the latest All-India Review of the Progress of Education in India says,——

Mr. SPEAKER: How long will you take, Mr. Rai Chaudhuri?

Rai HARENDRA NATH CHAUDHURI: Another ten minutes, Sir.

Mr. SPEAKER: How can I allow you so much time?

Mr. SASANKA SEKHAR SANYAL: Sir, Mr. Atul Chandra Kumar will curtail more than half of his time, and therefore Mr. Rai Chaudhuri may be given the time asked for.

Mr. SPEAKER: In that case, I have no objection.

Rai HARENDRA NATH CHAUDHURI: If it be true, as the latest All-India Review by Mr. Sargent of the Progress of Education in India says, quoting from the Bengal Report, that "the politically conscious section of the Muslims feels—not without some justification—that there is a danger of Muslim boys losing their individual outlook if they attend general schools which are manned very largely (in some places almost exclusively) by non-Muslims and where the education given is more or less non-Islamic in character", how much more must the danger be real in the eyes of those who are not Muslims and are yet compelled to send their boys and even girls, not to general schools, but to admittedly communal institutions for want of general primary schools? If education even in general primary schools be harmful to the Muslims, how can education in Islamic environment and culture be harmless and wholesome and unexceptionable to the Hindu students in the eyes of the Hindus? Rather, for the very reasons for which the *maktabs* are preferred by the Muslims, why will not the non-Muslims consider them as so many centres for religious proselytization and cultural conversion?

Sir, I know that in raising this question I shall be accused of raising a communal issue, for the word "communal" has developed a peculiar meaning in the province of Bengal, because here those persons are dubbed as communal who insist on having general and non-sectarian institutions, and they are non-communal who insist on their religious provision, on their own cultural preference and emphasize their differences in season and out of season. I know, Sir, that I shall be accused of raising a communal issue, but what can I do, when I find that communalism of a particular favoured community has been and is allowed to play its full part in the sphere of education reckless of the injustice that is perpetrated to or of the injuries that are inflicted on the other communities?

It is with deep regret, Sir, that I have come to raise this question to-day, because twice I was assured that this question would be investigated and proper remedies would be formulated. So far back as in September, 1937, I put a supplementary question in connection with my starred question No. 223 on *maktabs*. The supplementary question was—

> "Will the Hon'ble Minister for Education be pleased to refer to answer (2) and state whether he is considering the desirability of establishing general primary schools in those areas predominantly inhabited by Muhammadans, in view of the fact that there are *maktabs* in areas predominantly inhabited by Hindus?"

The Hon'ble Mr. A. K. Fazlul Huq answered as follows:—

> "The question will be taken up along with the question of introduction of ordinary primary schools in the province."

How the question has been taken up and tackled in connection with the extension of the Primary Education Act will be evident from the figures of larger enrolment of Hindu students in *maktabs* that I have already placed before the House. Again, Sir, there was an assurance in more definite terms when towards the close of last year I moved a resolution on the subject recommending that general and non-denominational primary schools be immediately started in those areas where for want of such schools Hindu students are being compelled to read in *maktabs*, and the Hon'ble Minister not only responded in generous terms to the said resolution but was pleased to assure us in the following terms—I am quoting from his speech:—

> "I will give the House this assurance that we will look very closely into this question not in a spirit of favouritism towards any community but in an impartial spirit, and I hope in a very short time my friend, Mr. Chaudhuri, will find that there is no further complaint so far as Hindu boys are concerned."

Sir, the complaint is not only there, but the issue has now assumed formidable proportions. I do not deny, Sir, that the Hon'ble the Chief Minister called a Conference and that there were three meetings, if I remember aright, but the Conference was called as subsequent events proved only to be abandoned in due course. Therein lies, Sir, the justification for the step that I am taking to-night in moving the cut motion standing in my name.

Mr. ATUL CHANDRA KUMAR: Sir, I am not moving the motion standing in my name, but I shall speak on the main demand. I will concentrate on my motion, though I am not moving it, viz., deprovincialisation of Government secondary schools and about the policy of grant-in-aid to the secondary schools. At one time there was the necessity of at least one Government school in every district town. The purpose of the Government school was to set a model for the spread of secondary education in the district. That purpose has been served. There are many secondary schools in the district, aided and non-aided. For every Government school twelve secondary schools can be well maintained. If the Government schools, especially the zilla schools, are abolished, about 400 secondary schools which do not get any aid from Government and which are in a tottering condition for want of proper funds, for which control of secondary education has been discovered as necessary, can be well maintained. I can cite

one example—Murshidabad has got no zilla school, but still there is no dearth of education in that district, whereas my own district Malda has got a zilla school, but in spite of that the percentage of literates in the district of Malda is only 3·5. Sir, I cannot understand if Murshidabad can do without a Government school, why other districts cannot do without it. I hope the Hon'ble Chief Minister who is also the Minister in charge of Education can devise a new scheme by abolishing the zilla schools and the money thus saved may be utilised for helping other secondary schools which are spreading education in the remotest corner of the different districts under considerable hardship in spite of generous private efforts. About 10 lakhs of rupees are spent annually, besides money for construction of rooms and hostel buildings for about 44 Government secondary schools. About 10 lakhs of rupees, I again repeat as the Hon'ble Minister for Education was not attentive, are annually spent for about 44 Government schools including about 30 zilla schools besides some other money for construction work, whereas only 19 lakhs of rupees are spent for 600 aided schools in Bengal. Besides, there are about 800 non-aided schools which practically get no aid from the Government. These zilla schools may be abolished and may be converted into either ordinary Government aided schools or they may be converted into schools for imparting vocational and technical education on agricultural and industrial lines. Money thus realised may be profitably distributed over the large number of aided schools, the major portion of which are nowadays either neglected or very poorly subsidised. The provincial services of the teachers who are now under the pay of the Provincial Government may be lent to the secondary schools, aided and non-aided, and after their retirement fresh recruits need not be made. The services of teachers which will be so lent will be considered as so much monetary contributions to the schools which will also in their turn improve their tone by getting these better paid teachers. Non-aided high schools do not get required capital grant, but for the extension of the class room of a zilla school or for a hostel of another zilla school 10 thousand rupees are going to be spent. If this 10 thousand rupees is given to me, I undertake to run a first class new secondary school in any village in Bengal. The province requires as many schools as possible and the poor province need not necessarily require good buildings for class rooms. What is required is good and well-paid teachers. Sir, I wonder that instead of undertaking these easy and obvious steps in extension of education, our Minister, who is also the Chief Minister, is trying to get legislation for controlling and contracting it. This is definitely a reactionary step.

Mr. FAZLUR RAHMAN (of Dacca): Mr. Speaker, Sir, I would not have intervened in this debate but for the speech of my friend Mr. Rai Chaudhuri. The unfounded criticism of Mr. Rai Chaudhuri

has also called for this speech from me. Sir, his long and intelligent speech would have been considered unnecessary if he knew all the facts.

Sir, the word *maktab* is so much hated by him. Why? because any Muslim word is so much hated by him that he could not stand the very name of *maktab*. But perhaps he did not know that *maktab* is only another description of primary school. All primary schools whether they go by the name of *patshalas* or by the name of *maktabs* are following to-day the same syllabus, the same curriculum. (Rai HARENDRA NATH CHAUDHURI: Question.) These facts he must question because he does not know (Rai HARENDRA NATH CHAUDHURI: Still I question.) and because he is an uniformed gentleman.

Mr. SASANKA SEKHAR SANYAL: Further question.

Mr. SPEAKER: I wish no more question! (Laughter.)

Mr. FAZLUR RAHMAN: Sir, before the Reforms and before this Government came into power, the state of things was that in Muslim areas the *maktabs* were established due to the initiative of the Muslims, and in Hindu areas the *patshalas* were established due to the initiative of the Hindus. The Muslim boys were reading in the Hindu schools in the Hindu areas and the Hindu boys were reading in the Muslim schools in the Muslim areas. There was a difference of curriculum and syllabus at that time. But after the introduction of the Primary Education Act that distinction has been taken away. Now though a school may be called a primary school or a *maktab*, the same curriculum, the same syllabus and the same text-books are prescribed for every school. In 17 districts District School Boards have been established and they are working now, and in all those districts till last year the same books both in the *patshala* and in the *maktab* were taught. But from this January, whether there is a School Board or not in a district, throughout the whole province, a *maktab* or a *patshala* or a primary school is following the same course. If this fact had been known to my friend Mr. Rai Chaudhuri, I think he would have considered his long and intelligent speech as unnecessary.

Sir, they raise the bogey that the Hindu boys have been forced to go to these *maktabs*, but they do not consider how many Muslim boys— perhaps several, times the number of Hindu boys that are reading in the Muslim schools—are reading in Hindu schools. (Rai HARENDRA NATH CHAUDHURI: There is nothing as Hindu schools.) Sir, this question has been lost sight of. We have never objected to the word *patshala*, though they have the grace to take exception to the word *maktab*. *Maktab* is a familiar word and many

District School Boards have allowed in the predominantly Muslim populated areas to retain the name *maktab*, because they thought that it would not be objectionable to any caste or community. But I believe, Sir, that they give so much importance to this, though they stand for nationalism, though they always speak of unity, because they hate anything Islamic and they cannot tolerate the very idea of calling or describing a primary school as *maktab*, and it is from that point of view that this speech has been delivered, and though they claim that in order to protect the legitimate rights of the Hindu community they are agitating like this, if you remember the facts that were placed before you, you will find how much of what they said was said in sincerity and whether there was any sincerity in their speech.

I feel, Sir, that I need not say anything more, and I hope that on the facts that I have placed before them, no member will again come forward to level the same charges against this Ministry.

Mr. SHAHEDALI: Mr. Speaker, Sir, I beg to move——

Mr. SPEAKER: Mr. Shahedali, are you going to move your motion No. 8?

Mr. SHAHEDALI: Yes, Sir.

Mr. SPEAKER: Is it your intention to call a division on it?

Mr. SHAHEDALI: There may be a division.

Mr. SPEAKER: In that case I must finish this motion first before I take up a new subject.

Mr. SASANKA SEKHAR SANYAL: Let Mr. Atul Chandra Sen speak in that case, Sir.

Mr. SPEAKER: All right.

Mr. ATUL CHANDRA SEN: Sir, I have listened with great interest to the learned discourse given by my honourable friend Mr. Fazlur Rahman. He has talked of Islam and tried to impute the motive to some of the Hindu speakers that whenever they find the name Islam, these people revolt. But that is not exactly so. Sir, I would rather say that if a Muslim boy for any circumstances beyond his control is compelled to read in a *tôl*, it would be as atrocious as to compel a Hindu boy to read in a *maktab* for circumstances beyond his control. Mr. Fazlur Rahman says that though the name is

maktab, really the curriculum is unified. That is not a fact. If you refer to the answer given by the Hon'ble Chief Minister to Starred Question No. 330, you will find that there is only one district in Bengal, namely, the district of Tippera, where there is anything like a unified curriculum. In no other district is there a unified curriculum. Sir, besides the fact that Hindu boys in many districts in large numbers are compelled to read in *maktabs,* may I also mention another fact? In my own district I have found, and I am prepared to prove it to the hilt, that primary schools started and organised by enterprising and enthusiastic Hindu young men have been refused sanction, have been refused grants and recognition by the School Board on the ground——(A voice from the Coalition Benches: Question!) I can prove it to the hilt, and if the honourable member wants any proof, I can prove it outside, but not here. I know of at least two schools where applications for grants made to the proper authorities were refused on the ground that these people refused to subscribe to the Muslim League dogma. This must cease. We on this side of the House do stand for national education. As I said in my speech on the Secondary Education Bill, we stand for national education in schools where Hindu boys, Muslim boys and boys belonging to all communities must read and must learn in a way in which young people are learning in other parts of the world. There must be no religious instruction imparted per force. Sir, I am personally not opposed to imparting religious education to our young people but if religious education is to be imparted, let it be done in institutions exclusively meant for the purpose. These two things must not be mixed up together. A school which is run by Government funds, funds given by the people, must be absolutely non-denominational. Hindu boys must not be compelled to read in *maktabs* even as Muslim boys must not be compelled to read in *tols.* Let Mr. Fazlur Rahman understand that there is no spirit of rancour or anti-Muslim spirit when we say that we want national education. We want national education, we want true national education in which Hindus and Muslims may participate; we want that Hindu and Muslim boys may be imparted education on sound scientific national lines. Sir, with these words, I support the motion of my friend, Rai Harendra Nath Chaudhuri.

Mr. ABDULLA-AL MAHMOOD: Sir, I am very sorry to say that my Professor Mr. Atul Chandra Sen does not know the difference between a *maktab* and a *tol.* Without knowing wherein lies the difference between these two institutions, he has tried to reply to Mr. Fazlur Rahman. He is simply singing the same burden of song as Rai Harendra Nath Chaudhuri. If Mr. Atul Chandra Sen wants that there should be different schools for Muslims, let the Pakistan scheme be worked out here.

Rai HARENDRA NATH CHAUDHURI: You have already worked it out.

The Hon'ble Mr. A. K. FAZLUL HUQ: Sir, I do not wish to raise any communal issues, but I must say that the speech delivered by my friend Rai Harendra Nath Chaudhuri was fairly provocative. I do not say that he is ignorant of facts. He is a very diligent student and a great research scholar. He devotes much time and energy to the collection of statistics, but like all experts he generally goes wrong and puts the facts in the wrong way. Sir, I would like to give the House a few facts with reference to this question which is frequently discussed not merely in this Assembly but also outside. So long ago as the year 1915-16, these *maktabs* were a different class of institutions from ordinary secular primary schools. In course of time the *maktabs* were secularised and there was an attempt to bring them into line with secular institutions There was a protest from the Muslim community that in that process the *maktabs* would lose their individual character and no religious instruction would be imparted, with the result that Muslim parents would be dissuaded from sending their children to these primary secular schools.

Now, Sir, it is true that up to a certain period of time the *maktabs* were really institutions where there was more of Muslim education than ordinary secular education But we have been trying, as I have said, to bring both institutions into line and at the present moment the information supplied to me by the Education Department, to use their exact words, is: "At present there is no difference in the syllabus for *maktabs* and primary school classes throughout the province." Only there is this difference that there is religious education made compulsory, and I am informed that not only Muslim students but even Hindu students received religious instruction in these institutions. *Maktabs* nowadays mean only such primary schools where more than 50 per cent. of the students happen to be Muslims. In this connection I would like to give the House certain figures which are interesting. The number of Muslim boys in primary schools far exceeds the number of Hindu boys in primary schools. The figures are as follows:—

Total number of Hindu boys in primary schools and *maktabs*—11,46,662.

Total number of Muslim boys in primary schools and *maktabs*—15,86,671.

Of the 11,46,662 Hindu boys in primary schools and *maktabs*, 74,506 read in *maktabs* and the rest in ordinary secular schools. I may mention that up till now we have received no complaint worth mentioning either from the guardians of Hindu boys or the Hindu

boys themselves by reason of the fact that they are receiving their education along with Muslim boys in institutions which are called *maktabs.* It is a happy sign of the times that even now in spite of the communal atmosphere that prevails throughout the country Hindu boys and Muslim boys at least in their tender years can sit together in the same room in the same class and receive the same instruction from the same set of teachers.

As regards text-books it is true that some Persian and Arabic words are introduced in some of these text-books used in *maktabs* and primary schools, but their number is very few. On the other hand, the Muslims can complain that 90 per cent. of the words in the Bengali language come from Sanskrit. The proper solution is not to cavil at the introduction of foreign words. The English language is very rich because of the large importation of foreign words which has taken place and which has made it what it is to-day, the most expressive language in the world, and I think that the Bengali language would be richer if they could draw words from all available sources, not excluding Sanskrit, Persian, Arabic or Urdu. As regards text-books written by Muslims, let me remind the House that there are at the present moment Muslim authors who write Bengali which is in no way inferior in point of composition to the best Bengali written by Hindu authors. The Muslim writers should not be condemned merely because they are Muslims. Let everybody have a fair chance to-day, let there be no partiality and let the text-books be selected on their merits. And for that purpose there is a Text-Book Committee composed of Hindus and Muslims and the books are scrutinised by this committee. It is said that there are and have been cases of favouritism in the selection of text-books by the Text-Book Committee. Favouritism, I may say, there is almost everywhere, and it is difficult to exclude favouritism absolutely from public institutions. But beyond that, it is the duty of the Text-Book Committee to see that the best books are prescribed for primary schools. I can assure my friends, as I have done in the past, that in the matter of primary education which is being introduced and which is being made free, an attempt is being made to see that neither in the selection of text-books nor in the appointment of teachers anything should be done which will give offence to any particular community or render the institution unpopular. I may tell the House in this connection that from Muslims of some of the Western Bengal districts we have been receiving complaints that they are not receiving education suited to Muslim boys, that there is no provision for religious instructions, and so forth. Siminlar complaints have also been coming from the Hindus of Eastern Bengal. And the wisest course, to my mind, is to see how far these complaints are well founded, and for the aggrieved person to approach the Government and for the Government to see that no cause for real complaint exists. Sir, I hope the House will

agree with me that we are doing our best to make the primary schools popular, not by Hinduisation nor by Muslimisation but by Indianisation which would make these institutions popular to everybody so that primary education might take an important place in the educational system of the province.

The motion of Rai Harendra Nath Chaudhuri that the demand of Rs. 1,68,74,000 for expenditure under the head "37—Education—General" be reduced by Rs. 100, was then put and lost.

Mr. SHAHEDALI: Sir, I beg to move that the demand of Rs. 1,68,74,000 for expenditure under the head "37—Education—General" be reduced by Rs. 100. By moving the cut motion I intend to draw the attention of Government to—

(*i*) constitution and functioning of the District School Boards;

(*ii*) appointment of teachers in the primary schools;

(*iii*) selection of sites for the primary schools;

(*iv*) compulsory religious instruction in the primary schools;

(*v*) corruption and bribery in selecting sites for and appointment of teachers in the primary schools;

(*vi*) policy of Government in the administration of primary education.

Mr. SPEAKER: As regards (*ii*), (*iii*) and (*v*), they do not concern Government.

Mr. SHAHEDALI: Sir, so far as the corruption and bribery in the matter of selection of sites and appointment of teachers are concerned, my point in raising this question is to attack the policy of Government in appointing their henchmen as members of the District School Board.

Mr. SPEAKER: What I say is, that you can discuss the functioning of the District School Board in a general way and you can make out a case which requires the intervention of Government under the Act in force. It is no use saying that Government must interfere in all such matters when there is no statutory provision for such interference. So far as the other points are concerned, they are only matters of detail. You must therefore concentrate your point on the constitution and functioning of the District School Boards, and while doing so you may bring in other points if they are relevant.

Mr. SHAHEDALI: I beg to submit, Sir, that I want to raise a discussion on the constitution of the District School Boards and their

working and also on compulsory religious instruction in the primary schools and, lastly, on the policy of Government in the administration of primary education.

Sir, this free compulsory primary education is the crying need of the province. Previous to this Government, the Free Primary Education Act was passed and it was left to the present Government to work it out, and accordingly free primary education was introduced in several districts, but many of the districts were left without introduction of any primary education. The Hon'ble Mr. Fazlul Huq in the past did some good to the cause of education by his speeches, and it came to his lot in 1937 to do some real good to the people. So far as the portfolio of education is concerned, it has fallen to him. So far as higher education is concerned, he has done immense good to the people, and he has also given several stipends to Muslim students; but so far as primary education is concerned, he has left it to the little Hitlers and these little Hitlers are responsible for deteriorating the cause of education and for blacking the fair name of the Hon'ble Mr. Fazlul Huq. So, Sir, my object in bringing forward this motion is to draw the attention of the Hon'ble Mr. Fazlul Huq to the mischiefs that have been done by these little Hitlers, so that these little Hitlers may not have any opportunity in future to do this. I take it that the Hon'ble the Chief Minister does not understand what I mean by the expression "little Hitlers." By that I mean persons who almost without any education have been placed in charge of primary education and are doing things arbitrarily. These persons appear to me to be little Hitlers, and I submit that the activities of these little Hitlers should be controlled by the Hon'ble Minister in charge of Education.

Sir, I shall now refer to the District School Board of Tippera. Mr. Abdur Rahim was the District Inspector of Schools——

Mr. SPEAKER: I am sorry, you cannot mention individual names. This Mr. Abdur Rahim is fortunately not a member of this Legislature, and it is not fair to criticise him here without giving him an opportunity to say what he has got to say.

Mr. SHAHEDALI: All right, Sir. Now, what I was saying is that in the Tippera District School Board, as at present constituted, there are some members of the Coalition Party who are practically controlling the administration of that Board. If any District School Inspector is unable to comply with the request of the Chairman of the District School Board, he has to bid good-bye to the district and is transferred elsewhere, and some gentlemen have been recruited to the Board who have no power to say "No" to what is suggested by the Chairman of the District Board.

Now, Sir, at the time when the District School Board was constituted, one clerk had to be appointed, and the man who was appointed is about 70 years old, and it is his duty only to frame the policy of the District School Board. This famous gentleman has been given service under the District School Board simply because he knows how to do mischief, though he has no educational qualifications at all.

When primary schools were being established in different parts of Tippera, the Tippera District School Board recognised many of the schools and asked the authorities of those schools to get their school building erected and as a result those people erected their school sheds at a huge cost. But to our uttter misfortune we find that though they were recognised and though grants were given to them last year, these grants were taken away by the school authorities subsequently.

Sir, regarding one school I shall say something. The Bara Ani School, within Matlab police-station in the district of Tippera, was recognised by the District School Board. For whatever reason the teachers of this school incurred the displeasure of the members in authority and this school along with 11 other schools were not recognised and letters were sent to them to go to some other schools. Then, Sir, one Secretary of the school filed one petition before the President of the school authorities and he wanted an enquiry and it was ordered that the school will work till the enquiry was made and the enquiry was to be made towards the close of the month of December, 1940. Without having any enquiry the Sub-Inspector of Schools issued a circular to the teachers Maulvi Md. Ali Akbar Mia and others of Bara Ani School. The order runs thus:—

> "The marginally-noted teachers of the Bara Ani Free Primary School are hereby ordered provisionally to work until further orders subject to the approval of the District School Board, Tippera, at the Sataki Bazar Free Primary Centre recommended by the Sub-Committee in the place of Maulvi Mansar Ahmed Mia with effect from the 13th January, 1941, positively. If they fail to comply with the order by that date specified above, their services will be dispensed with from that date."

Further, Sir, the order says that he should bring in with him the pupils of his school and the original registers with him to the new school.

Mr. SPEAKER: Mr. Shahedali, I did not want to stop you, but will you tell me under what authority Government can interfere? That must be the basis of your cut motion.

Maulvi ABU HOSSAIN SARKAR: If the Government cannot, then they must vacate.

Mr. SHAHEDALI: Sir, so far as higher education is concerned, I have already stated——

Mr. SPEAKER: I do not deny that they are your grievances, but please point out how Government can intervene.

Mr. SHAHEDALI: Sir, I was going to say that so far as higher education is concerned, the Hon'ble Mr. Fazlul Huq is taking step. So far as primary education is concerned, I want to draw the attention of the Hon'ble Minister so that these things might not happen in future. This may be done by issuing instruction to the Sub-Inspectors through the District Inspectors or other officers under whose direct control they are, so that these misuses and abuses might not recur in future.

Now, Sir, in another school, Aswin Free Primary School, the question of a primary school being recognised was not in the agenda; but a Maulvi of another school went there and persuaded the school authorities to have it considered and the decision was given in favour of the Maulvi. When I enquired of the District Inspector of Schools how the matter could be proposed and seconded and considered when it was not on the agenda, he said that he was absentminded and that he was helpless. These facts I want to bring to the notice of the Hon'ble Chief Minister.

The Hon'ble Mr. A. K. FAZLUL HUQ: Sir, my friend asked me to control the gentlemen whom he called little Hitlers. Let me assure him that it is our declared policy to put down Hitlers all over the world, and since we are trying to put down Hitlers we must not spare little Hitlers wherever they are found. I hope that this assurance will satisfy my friend.

Mr. SHAHEDALI: This is not all, Sir. In the Chandpur sub-division——

Mr. SPEAKER: Mr. Shahedali, I will have to adjourn the House now for prayer. You can speak after adjournment.

(At this stage the House was adjourned for 15 minutes.)

(After adjournment.)

Mr. SHAHEDALI: Mr. Speaker, Sir, in Chandpur subdivision, there have been a number of disputes over primary schools. There has been no enquiry held, and without enquiry the district school

authorities are recommending these schools which are set up by persons of their side. As a result, there has been disquiet and there has been a rule of terror in the subdivision of Chandpur. I am speaking of these things because Government bear the responsibility for providing free and compulsory primary education. Government also take the responsibility of nominating people. So, for a decent administration of District School Boards, Government should take into consideration not only the people who are their supporters, but also the people who are men of ability, men of education, and men of culture. Even in this House there is a Party called the Opposition and Opposition helps Government to come to a right decision. So also in the District School Board, if there are people of culture and education, they will raise issues which will enable them to come to a right decision. In the subdivision of Chandpur, almost 90 per cent. of the people are Muhammadans and if this be the state of things in Chandpur subdivision, I do not know what is the state of things where the country is populated more by Hindus. So, my submission is that Government should, in future, take into consideration the attitude of the people and that they should also see that schools are located in places where all boys and girls can go conveniently and get themselves educated.

With these few words, I commend my motion to the acceptance of the House.

Maulvi MAFIZUDDIN AHMED: Sir, just now we have heard Mr. Shahedali making certain allegations against the Tippera District School Board. These allegations, I must say at the very outset, are unfounded and maliciously false. This is what may be called "showing the teeth" of a man who is disappointed and vanquished. This gentleman tried to get into the School Board but failed, and being disappointed he has been trying to throw mud at the School Board which has been functioning quite properly. He has cited the case of Ashwinpur Free Primary School, but he has not mentioned the fact that he himself was an applicant. Sir, I may tell the House that the rival candidate was his own cousin Mr. Faizuddin Ahmad who had been running this rival institution for a long time. Mr. Faizuddin Ahmad is a very active man and takes great interest in the school. But Mr. Shahedali who lives always at Comilla hardly goes home and he does not take any interest in the school which he claims to have started——

Mr. SHAHEDALI: Sir, may I——

Mr. SPEAKER: May I say that this is a warning to everybody not to introduce into the Legislature matters which are purely of local concern. Now, Mr. Shahedali has given one side of the story, and he is giving the other side and I cannot shut out one or the other.

Mr. SHAHEDALI: On a point of order, Sir. As a member of the Legislature, I think, everyone has got the right to speak out the truth.

Mr. SPEAKER: He is also a member of the Legislature.

Mr. SHAHEDALI: Sir, he has said that I have got no school.

Mr. SPEAKER: Your point of order is finished. He is as much a member of the Legislature as you are.

Mr. SHAHEDALI: Sir, he is a member of the School Board.

Maulvi MAFIZUDDIN AHMED: Therefore, I know better than you. The School Board received two applications—one from Mr. Shahedali and another from his own cousin Mr. Faizuddin Ahmad. The matter was enquired into by the local Sub-Inspector of Schools and he submitted a report. We got also the report of the Advisory Committee and that of the Site Selection Committee. These reports conclusively showed that the school which was claimed to be run by Mr. Shahedali was not a school at all. It was not run properly. There was no teacher and there were no benches or other things, whereas the other rival school which was run by Mr. Faizuddin Ahmad was run very properly and all the above reports were in his favour. So, this matter received our full consideration just like other petitions. In this case, we agreed with the reports of the Sub-Inspector of Schools and other bodies and we gave sanction to the school of Mr. Faizuddin Ahmad and turned down the application of Mr. Shahedali. Mr. Shahedali has made all these allegations on the floor of the House because my friend is a disappointed man.

Sir, he has complained of another thing and that is Hitlerism. Of course, Hitlerism nobody likes, but there are times and occasions when Hitlerism is necessary.

Mr. ABDUL WAHED: মাননীয় সভাপতি সাহেব আমার বন্ধু সাহেদালী সাহেবের ছাটাই প্রস্তাব সমর্থন কোরছি এবং সেই সম্পর্কে কয়েকটি কথা বোলছি। বাংলার প্রধান মন্ত্রী সাহেব গত নির্ব্বাচনের সময় বাংলার জনসাধারণের নিকট বলেছিলেন যে আমার ছেলে মেয়ে নাই, তোমরা সকলে আমার সন্তান এই বলে চোখের পানি ছেড়ে দিয়েছিলেন আর বলেছিলেন যে তোমাদের উপকার করতে পারলেই আমি ধন্য হব। কিন্তু প্রধান মন্ত্রী হওয়ার পর কতকজন বড়লোক নিয়া মন্ত্রীমণ্ডল গঠন কোরলেন। তিনি ইলেকশনের পূর্ব্বে দেশের জনসাধারণকে আশা দিয়াছিলেন যে বিনা টেক্সেই প্রাইমারী শিক্ষাকে বাধ্যতামূলক করে সারা বাংলায় শিক্ষার বিস্তার কোরবেন। একটী লোককেও অজ্ঞ থাকিতে দিবেন না। প্রধান মন্ত্রী হওয়ার পর এই

শিক্ষা বিভাগ তিনি নিজের হাতেই নিলেন বটে কিন্তু দেখালেন যে শিক্ষাতো বাধ্যতামূলক হলই না, বরং প্রতি টাকায় সাড়ে তিন পয়সা করে বাধ্যতামূলক ট্যাক্স চাপিয়ে দিলেন জনসাধারণের ঘাড়ে। এইভাবে দেখা গেল যে তিনি দেশবাসীকে যত আশা দিয়েছিলেন তিনি ঠিক তার উল্টা কোর্ত্তে আরম্ভ কোরছেন তখন তাঁর সম্বন্ধে মন্তব্য প্রকাশ কোর্ত্তে গিয়ে একটা খবরের কাগজে যে একটা সত্য কথা বোলেছিল সেই কথাটা আমার মনে পড়ল। সেই খবরের কাগজখানি আমাদের প্রধান মন্ত্রী সাহেবের অবস্থা সম্বন্ধে মন্তব্য কোরেছিলেন—যে আমাদের হক সাহেবের অবস্থা হয় ত অন্ধ রাজা ধৃতরাষ্ট্রের মত নিঃসহায়, না হয় বৃদ্ধ সম্রাট সাজাহানের ন্যায় নলিনী চক্রে খাজা দুর্গে বন্দী। এই সত্য কথাটার দিকে যখন লক্ষ্য করি তখন বুঝি যে দেশের জনসাধারণকে ফাঁকি দিয়ে আজ তিনি বন্দিশালায় আবদ্ধ। আজকে চারিটি বৎসর চোলে যাচ্ছে। বাংলার জনসাধারণের পক্ষ থেকে আমরা তাঁর কাছ থেকে বিশেষভাবে শিক্ষার দিক দিয়ে যথেষ্ট আশা কোরেছিলাম। বাংলার জনসাধারণকে শিক্ষার দিক দিয়ে উন্নত করবার জন্য আমরা প্রধান মন্ত্রী সাহেবকে সাহায্য কোরতে প্রস্তুত ছিলাম এবং উপদেশও যথেষ্ট দিয়েছি। হোলে কি হবে। তাঁরা দেখেও দেখছেন না, শুনেও শুনছেন না, এবং গায়ে কিছুই বিদ্ধ হচ্ছে না তাই আমার আর একটা কথা মনে পোড়ছে। এই পরিষদ প্রথমে বসবার পর গুণ্ডার সংরক্ষণ আইন পাশ করে নেওয়া হোয়েছিল। তখন বুঝতে পারিনি এই আইনের কি প্রয়োজনীয়তা। আজকে বুঝতে পারছি গুণ্ডার রক্ষা আইনের কি প্রয়োজন হোয়েছিল। এটা বাংলার মন্ত্রীমণ্ডলীর জন্যই প্রয়োজন হোয়েছিল। কেননা তাঁরা "কানে দিয়েছেন তুলো, চোখে দিয়েছেন কোলুর ঠুলি আর গায়ে পোরেছেন গণ্ডারের চামড়া। নইলে কোন কথাই তাঁদের গায়ে লাগছে না কেন? তাই আজকে প্রাথমিক শিক্ষা সম্বন্ধে এখানে যে প্রস্তাব উপস্থিত হোয়েছে সেই সম্বন্ধে আমি একটি কথার উপর জোর দিয়ে বোলছি,—এই যে শিক্ষা বোর্ড গঠন করার নীতি অবলম্বন কোরেছেন গভর্ণমেণ্ট সেই বোর্ডে মাত্র কয়েকজন লোককে ইউনিয়ন বোর্ডের মেম্বরদের ভোট দ্বারা নির্ব্বাচিত করা হয়। বাকী কয়েকজন মেম্বরকে মনোনয়ন দ্বারা নেওয়া হয়। সেই শিক্ষা বোর্ডের চেয়ারম্যান সাধারণতঃ জিলা ম্যাজিষ্ট্রেটই হইয়া থাকেন এবং অন্য একজন ভাইস্ চেয়ারম্যানও থাকেন, তাঁর হাতেই প্রায় সমস্ত কাজের ভার থাকে ফলে গভর্ণমেণ্ট মনোনীত সরকারী অফিসার মেম্বরদের মতেই কাজ চলিয়া থাকে কাজেই এটাকে শিক্ষা বোর্ড না বলে গভর্ণমেণ্টের অফিস বলিলেও অত্যুক্তি হয় না। এই সব ইউনিয়ন বোর্ডের মেম্বররা তাঁদের বিবেক বুদ্ধিমত কাজ কোরতে পারেন না। কাজেই নির্ব্বাচনের সময় তারা নিজেদের মতের স্বাধীনতা রক্ষা কোর্ত্তে পারে না। সার্কেল অফিসার যাকে বলেন তাকেই ভোট দেওয়া হয়। এই সব কারণে শিক্ষা বোর্ডে যে সব মেম্বর থাকেন তাঁদের মধ্যে দেশের ও জনসাধারণের উপকারের জন্য স্বাধীনভাবে মত প্রকাশ কোর্ত্তে পারেন এইরূপ লোক অত্যন্ত বিরল। সেই রকম সৎসাহসী লোকের অত্যন্ত অভাব। তাই দেখা যাচ্ছে সারা বাংলা যে আশা কোরেছিল বাংলার গরীব জনসাধারণ যে আশা কোরেছিল যে তাদের ছেলেপিলেদের শিক্ষার জন্য সুব্যবস্থা হবে, তাদের সেই আশা নির্ম্মূল হোয়েছে। ১৯৩০ সালে প্রাথমিক শিক্ষা আইন পাশ হয়েছিল কিন্তু কার্য্যকরী হয়েছিল না। বর্ত্তমান মন্ত্রীমণ্ডলী তাহা কার্য্যকরী

করলেন বটে কিন্তু জনসাধারণের দাবী ছিল যাহাতে সারাবাংলার প্রাথমিক শিক্ষা বিনা টেক্সে অবৈতনিক ও বাধ্যতামূলকভাবে প্রচলিত হয়। ১৯৩০ সালের প্রাথমিক শিক্ষা আইনের ভিতর বাধ্যতামূলক কথাটা ছিল না, কিন্তু সারা বাংলায় অবৈতনিক ভাবে প্রাথমিক শিক্ষা প্রচারের কথা এই আইনে ছিল। কিন্তু সেটা চোলেছে শম্বুকের মত। আর এই প্রাথমিক শিক্ষা প্রবর্ত্তনের সঙ্গে সঙ্গে টেক্স বসে গেল খাজনার টাকায় সাড়ে তিন পয়সা। কিন্তু তা সত্বেও প্রাইমারী শিক্ষা শম্বুকের মত চোলছে। যদি এই ভাবে এক একটি জেলায় প্রাইমারী শিক্ষা প্রবর্ত্তিত হয় তাহোলে সারা বাংলায় প্রাথমিক শিক্ষা প্রবর্ত্তিত হোতে ২০-২৫ বছর সময় লাগবে। এইভাবে আস্তে আস্তে কাজ চোলছে। শিক্ষা বোর্ডে যে সব দুর্ব্বল প্রতিনিধিরা আছেন তাদের স্কুল সাব-ইন্‌স্পেক্টর, জিলা ইন্‌স্পেক্টর প্রভৃতির বিরুদ্ধে স্বাধীনভাবে কাজ করবার কোন ক্ষমতা নেই। তারা অত্যন্ত দুর্ব্বল। মেরুদণ্ডহীন ও ক্ষুদ্র অন্তঃকরণ বিশিষ্ট লোক। আবার তার সঙ্গে সঙ্গে তাঁরা স্বার্থপরও কম নয়। এই পরিষদের অনেক মেম্বর জানেন যে এই শিক্ষা ব্যাপারটাও একটা ব্যবসার মধ্যে পরিগণিত হোয়েছে। মেম্বর নির্ব্বাচনের বেলায় ও শিক্ষক নিযুক্ত ব্যাপারে ব্যবসা চোলছে। টাকা ছাড়া কেউ কোন কাজ কোর্ত্তে রাজী নন। যেখানে যেখানে প্রাথমিক শিক্ষার ব্যবস্থা হোয়েছে সেখানেই তুমুল আন্দোলন আরম্ভ হোয়েছে। শিক্ষকদের মধ্যে এবং জনসাধারণের মধ্যে বিক্ষোভ দেখা দিয়েছে। কাজেই এই সব বিষয়ে গভর্ণ-মেণ্টের দৃষ্টি আকর্ষণ করবার জন্য এই প্রস্তাব উপস্থিত করা হোয়েছে। কোয়ালিশন (coalition) দল থেকে বলা হোচ্ছে যে সাহেদ আলি সাহেব যা বোলেছেন তা মিথ্যা কথা। এইভাবে ছাই দিয়ে আগুন ঢাকা যাবে না, শাক দিয়ে মাছ ঢাকা যাবে না, সত্য গোপন করা যাবে না। এই খানে যা খুসী বোলতে পারেন দেশের জনসাধারণের মধ্যে গেলে দেখবেন কি অবস্থা। কাজেই প্রাথমিক শিক্ষা পরিচালনা বিষয়ে আমি প্রধান মন্ত্রী সাহেবের দৃষ্টি আকর্ষণ কোরছি। তিনি হয়ত নিশ্চয় আশা করেন এই যে চোল্‌ছে বছর তার পরেই পরিষদের আয়ু শেষ হোয়ে গেলে তিনি আবার খালি গায়ে, খালি পায়ে জনসাধারণের কাছে গিয়ে বুকের কাপড় ফেলে দিয়ে খালি বুকে হাত দিয়ে জনসাধারণকে আবার বোলবেন "আমার ছেলে মেয়ে নেই, আমার কেউ নেই, তোমরাই আমার ছেলেমেয়ে"। এই বোলে দরদর ধারায় চক্ষের পানী ছেড়ে দেবেন। কাজেই আমার অনুরোধ এই কয়টি মাসের ভেতর তিনি এমন কাজ করুন যাতে লোকে আবার তাঁকে বিশ্বাস কোরতে পারে একবার ত বিশ্বাস করে ঠকেছে তারা আর যেন না ঠকে। এখনত প্রধান মন্ত্রী সাহেব নলিনী চক্রের ভিতর থেকে মুক্তিলাভ কোরেছেন। আশা করি এবারে তিনি খাজা দুর্গ ভেদ কোরে বীরের মত বেরিয়ে এসে দেশের উপকার কোর্ব্বেন।

The Hon'ble Mr. A. K. FAZLUL HUQ: Sir, I oppose this motion.

The motion of Mr. Shahedali that the demand of Rs. 1,68,74,000 for expenditure under the head "37—Education—General" be reduced by Rs. 100 was then put and lost.

Mr. AMRITA LAL MANDAL: Mr. Speaker, Sir, I beg to move that the demand of Rs. 1,68,74,000 for expenditure under the head "37—Education—General" be reduced by Rs. 100. Sir, the object of motion is to raise a discussion about deliberate negligence of the Government for the education of the Scheduled Castes and for not giving effect to the resolution passed by this House on the 30th August, 1940, regarding the yearly grant of Rs. 10 lakhs for the education of the Scheduled Castes and other backward Hindus.

Sir, when the New Constitution came into operation many of us, specially of my side of the House, felt that at least in so far as the Scheduled Castes are concerned a new era of progress will be ushered. In fact, even when the present Ministry was constituted, we felt that the Scheduled Castes were to get a square deal and that the accumulated problems of the community are going to be attacked from all sides. But, Sir, the experience that we have gained these three years and a half has completely disillusioned us. Sir, while the cause of Muslim education is being helped and pampered in a variety of ways, the legitimate claims of our community have been consistently disregarded. And it is under a compelling sense of public duty that I am bringing forward this cut motion in order to raise a discussion on the policy of the Ministry in regard to the education of the Scheduled Castes.

Sir, in moving this cut motion I was to bring to the notice of this House and the Hon'ble Minister for Education the fact that the Government policy with regard to the promotion of education among the Scheduled Castes has been quite unsatisfactory and inadequate. If I am permitted to say, there has been a deplorable divergence between the professions of the Government and actual practice. About a crore of the people constituting the Scheduled Castes whose education has remained utterly hopeless and backward and who could not take any advantage of the existing educational institutions claimed that there should be some special provisions for the spread and promotion of education among them. The Government recognised their needs and professed sympathy. But what has been the outcome of that sympathy? In 1938-39, only Rs. 22,000 was spent; in 1939-40, Rs. 90,000 was spent; in 1940-41, Rs. 2,85,000 was provided and during the year 1941-42, Rs. 1,50,000 has been provided. Of the amount of Rs. 2,85,000 for 1940-41, Rs. 1,03,000 could not even be utilised. All these sums have been drawn from the Scheduled Castes Education Fund of Rs. 5 lakhs which was created in 1938-39, but although we were under the impression that the Government would spend Rs. 5 lakhs every year; we found to our regret that it was only a lump grant for the specific purpose of creating a Fund. If it were an annual provision, the Government should have spent more than Rs. 15 lakhs during the last few years. But even this Fund of Rs. 5 lakhs could not be

fully used, and we were told that since the Scheduled Castes Education Advisory Committee with Dr. Jenkins as Chairman could not produce a scheme, even these small sums could not be utilised for the promotion of education of Scheduled Caste boys. But, Sir, did not the Advisory Committee submit their report early in 1940 involving recurring expenditure of Rs. 6 lakhs and non-recurring expenditure of Rs. 4 lakhs? Have the Government taken any definite steps on the recommendation of the Advisory Committee? Besides in August, 1940, a non-official resolution moved in the Assembly for a recurring grant of Rs. 10 lakhs every year was carried by a majority. Have the Government implemented this resolution of the House? It is not myself alone but the entire community which I have the honour to represent here may claim to know why the decision of this House has been flouted by the Ministry? It is a matter of regret, indeed, that in spite of the promises and the resolution passed in this House, the Government seem to be apathetic towards the educational progress of the Scheduled Castes in Bengal.

Now, the Government cannot certainly complain that there is no scheme, nor should they disown their moral responsibility to remove illiteracy among the backward Hindu community. A Special Officer has no doubt been appointed to assess the educational needs of these castes all over Bengal. But a single officer consisting of one typist clerk is appointed to keep in touch with the entire 26 districts of Bengal. Even the most ordinary facility of a telephone in the office has been denied. In the circumstances, if the Scheduled Castes have not derived the full benefit of the appointment, it is a reflection on the inadequacy of the Government policy. What is most urgently necessary in the situation is to constitute small District Committees and to appoint an Inspector for each district to help the District Committee to assess the needs and requirements of the Scheduled Castes in each district and place them before the Special Officer. It is in this manner alone that the real educational interests of the Scheduled Castes can be served. I hope the Government will take this suggestion into their serious consideration.

As regards the non-utilisation of the available funds at present, I would like to point out that if the recurring grants were given to the various Middle English and High English Schools started under the auspices of Scheduled Castes, much of the funds would have been exhausted and there would remain no funds unspent. Instead of the procedure, the grants have not only been on a small scale but also of a non-recurring nature. This has placed many High English and Middle English Schools in extreme hardships and difficulties and no doubt their work has suffered a great deal. I should, therefore, urge upon the Government the urgent need for introducing recurring and adequate grants for Middle English and High English Schools all

over Bengal. To my utter disappointment I beg to point out that in many districts of this province, not to speak of High English Schools, even the Middle English Schools are not found in many Scheduled Caste areas, in spite of repeated demands of our people. I do therefore draw the notice of the Government towards the appalling illiteracy of the Scheduled Castes of Mymensingh, Nadia, Jalpaiguri, Rangpur, etc., for stepping towards the problem of Middle English and High English Schools with recurring grant.

About the resolution passed in August last for annual grant of Rs. 10 lakhs for the promotion of Scheduled Caste education, I should also urge the Government to implement it from the current year positively. The scheme recommended by the Advisory Committee involves an expenditure of a smaller amount, *i.e.*, a recurring expenditure of Rs. 6 lakhs. Let the Government start the operation of this scheme in such an amplified form as may be decided and at the same time an annual provision of Rs. 10 lakhs be placed in the next year's budget. Within the scope of this scheme there should be (*a*) the entertainment of District Inspectorate staff to assist District Committees and the Special Officer, (*b*) increased recurring grants for schools, (*c*) adequate provisions for technical education of the Scheduled Caste boys, so that many of them may be absorbed in the trades and industries of the province and to that extent the problem of the unemployment may be solved. I should emphasise in this connection that the policy of the Government in promoting Scheduled Caste education has been mainly concerned with grants for schools and capital grants for buildings. All this is necessary no doubt, but more than this, a planned programme of expenditure for promoting Scheduled Caste education is urgently called for. It is to this aspect of the problem of our education that I should like to draw the pointed attention of the Hon'ble Minister for Education.

The majority of the Scheduled Caste boys are so poor that on account of this poverty they cannot often prosecute their studies for a higher stage. Not only adequate funds should be provided for enabling the deserving poor boys among them for purchasing books for primary school and college education, but also there should be an adequate number of stipends and scholarships for them, so that they may proceed higher or enter into such technical institutions as medical schools, veterinary college, engineering college, overseering schools, etc. Further, there ought to be separate hostels for them built up at Government cost to be attached to different schools and colleges in the districts with the recurring grant, for there they may remain at much less cost than elsewhere. To make a specific reference, the absence of B. T. trained Scheduled Caste students has been responsible for depriving them of many opportunities in the educational lines. So they

should be given special facilities and funds for obtaining B. T. training. These requirements of the Scheduled Caste boys are very urgent and unless the scheme which I have outlined above does not include them, no attempt is likely to assist the educational progress of my community in a real and effective way.

Sir, it is far from my intention and further from my mind to sing in doleful strain the educational deficiency of my community in this House. There is no need for that, for we have nothing to pray for, we have a right and claim for demanding our due which is ours in view of our numerical position and political importance. The Poona Pact provided for increasing educational facilities for us, since we are educationally more backward than the Muslims for whom this Ministry is always showering doles. If Government is prepared to make amends for their past negligence, they must come forward with money for the uplift of the Scheduled Caste and other backward Hindus educationally, politically and socially. With these words, Sir, I commend my motion to the acceptance of the House.

Mr. JAGAT CHANDRA MANDAL: Sir, the present popular Government has been formed under the provisions of the Government of India Act of 1935, that is, according to the provisions of the Communal Award, which is a blessing in disguise for the people of India, and, I shall explain by concrete example why I call it a blessing in disguise.

Under the provisions of the India Act of 1935, Government has got special responsibilities for the safeguard of the interests of the minority communities, that is, the Scheduled Castes. Sir, politically and educationally advanced sections of Hindus are ever indifferent to the social, educational and political upliftment of the backward and illiterate sections of the Hindu-masses. Hence, as a liberal and fair policy of Government, the entire Hindu community has been politically divided into two parts, namely, the Caste Hindus and the Scheduled Castes, under the Government of India Act of 1935. Those who are educationally and politically advanced are classed as Caste Hindus, and those who are educationally and politically backward are called Scheduled Castes. The Scheduled Castes consisting of about 76 sub-castes form about one-fifth of the total population of the province. And the object and fair policy of Government under the India Act of 1935 is to give them special educational and political facilities and privileges.

Now, let us see how far the present Government has fulfilled this policy with regard to the education of the Scheduled Castes.

Of course, Government sanctioned a grant of Rs. 5 lakhs in 1938, and appointed a Special Officer, and a Scheduled Caste Education Committee with Dr. Jenkins as Chairman, and, the Special Officer as

Secretary, to look after the advancement of the education of the Scheduled Castes. And we are thankful to Government for that. But, now, from the attitude and actions of Government, we do not find any indications whether the office would be made permanent soon, and it is not yet furnished with proper staff and equipment, and the office has not yet been supplied with every minor thing like a 'phone even after our repeated demands for the same. And Government has not as yet sanctioned any adequate recurring grant for the maintenance of the office.

For the first two or three years, Government took some interest in the education of the Scheduled Castes, but as time passed on, Government seem to be rather indifferent to the upliftment of the Scheduled Castes, that is, the illiterate masses. For the first two or three years, Government awarded an adequate number of stipends to the Scheduled Caste students, and as a result of that encouragement, there is a considerable increase in the number of Scheduled Caste students; but in this year's budget there is no sufficient fund to meet the increased demands of the Scheduled Caste students, and, whatever provision is made for their stipends for the year ending on the 31st March, 1941, is still not given to them, though the financial year is coming to an end, and by the expiry of which whatever provision was made for their stipends will be lapsed.

In this connection, I beg to draw the attention of Hon'ble Minister in charge of the Education Department to the fact that even in a state like Mysore and some other provinces, education has been made entirely free up to the High School Standard, and the backward or Scheduled Caste students there are to pay no tuition fees.

In this year's budget only a grant of Rs. 1½ lakhs has been sanctioned towards the Scheduled Caste Education Fund, which is not at all adequate to meet their demands in consideration of their numerical strength, vast illiteracy and poverty.

Under the circumstances, as a sincere supporter, I respectfully ask this popular Government to adopt a more liberal policy with regard to the advancement of the education of the Scheduled Castes, to give effect to the scheme submitted by the Scheduled Caste Education Committee, and to make education entirely free for the poor and illiterate Scheduled Caste people.

Sir, I wish to explain by concrete example why I call the Communal Award a blessing in disguise for the people of India.

It has roused political consciousness in the minds of the people of all the different communities, and, as a result of that, every community now demands its legitimate share in the administration of the country.

It has brought about unity in every community, as, for instance, before the anti-award days or before the Communal Award, the Hindus were Brahmins, Kshatriyas, Baidyas and Sudras, *that is, Banerjee, Chatterjee, Mukerjee, Ganguli, Chakrabarty, Battacharjee, Ghosh, Bose, Guha, Mitra, etc.* But now they say, as was said aloud during the last census operations, we are all Hindus and Hindus and nothing else. Now my Caste Hindu friends do not quote the verse of the Gita "চতুর্বর্ণং মায়াসৃষ্টং গুণকর্ম্ম বিভাগশঃ"—that is "Brahmins, Kshatriyas, Baisyas and Sudras, and they do not say now Sudras are born to serve the other three castes."

So, my Muslim friends also now do not say, Mugal, Pathan, Syed, Shia, Sunni, etc., but they say from the poorest to the richest, we are all Mussalmans, and they have now become so united and powerful that no power in the world can resist their forward move in politics.

Our Scheduled Caste friends also now have learned to say, we are Scheduled, we are Scheduled; to some extent at least.

But Sir, I fail to understand the policy of those Hindu friends who are now moving heaven and earth to destroy the Communal Award and thereby destroy the political move and growth of the people and nation and the country.

And I also fail to understand the policy and political knowledge of my Scheduled Caste friends in the Opposition who are siding with those who are trying their level best to destroy the Communal Award, the creator or originator of the Scheduled Caste members in the Legislatures. I regret very much to mention that, Sir, my Scheduled Caste friends in the Opposition do not possess this much understanding to realise that by siding with them, they (Scheduled Caste, friends) also help the destruction of the Communal Award, their creator, and thereby put an end to their own existence in the Legislatures in the future Constitution. So, I appeal to my Scheduled Caste friends in the Opposition to co-operate with Government.

Babu LAKSHMI NARAYAN BISWAS : মাননীয় সভাপতি মহোদয়, আমার বন্ধু মিঃ অমৃতলাল মণ্ডলের প্রস্তাব সমর্থনে, সাধারণ শিক্ষা বিষয়ে আমি কিছু বলবো। দেশের মঙ্গলামঙ্গল, উন্নতি, অবনতি, সভ্যতা ও শান্তি একমাত্র শিক্ষার উপর নির্ভর করে। কেন নির্ভর করে না দেশকে শক্তিশালী করিতে হইলে শিক্ষার আবশ্যক হয়। জনসাধারণের পরস্পর সৌহার্দ্দ মিলনই শক্তি। সেই মিলন, শিক্ষাকে কেন্দ্র করিয়া গঠিত হয়। জনসাধারণ যদি জাতি নির্ব্বিশেষে সমান ভাবে শিক্ষা না পায় তাহা হইলে এই মিলন আসিতে পারে না। জনসাধারণের মধ্যে এই মিলন না থাকিলে, হিংসা, দ্বেষ, পরশ্রী-কাতরতা বিশেষণে বিশেষিত সাম্প্রদায়িকতার প্রাবল্যে দেশ উচ্ছন্নে যায় যেমন বর্ত্তমানে আমাদের বাংলা দেশের অবস্থা।

যদি দেশের জনসাধারণের ভিতর মিলন আনিতে হয়, যদি দেশকে শক্তিশালী করিতে হয়, যদি দেশকে শান্তিতে রাখতে হয় তবে Non-Government school গুলির প্রতি গভর্ণমেণ্টের সত্যিকারের একান্ত দৃষ্টি আবশ্যক। আমি জানি গভর্ণমেণ্ট তথাকথিত মন্ত্রীমণ্ডল ঐ সকল স্কুলগুলির প্রতি "শাক ভিক্ষা তনু রক্ষা" ধরণের সামান্য কিছু কিছু ছিটে ফোঁটা অর্থ দিয়া কোন প্রকারে ওজর এড়াইয়া কেবলমাত্র গভর্ণমেণ্ট স্কুল গুলি লইয়াই ব্যস্ত থাকেন। সভাপতি মহোদয়, আমি বলিতে চাই এই পরিষদের মাননীয় শিক্ষা মন্ত্রী ও মাননীয় সদস্যগণ কি জানেন না যে, মফঃস্বলের জনসাধারণের কয়জন ছেলে গভর্ণমেণ্ট স্কুলে পড়ে ও পড়িবার সুযোগ পাইয়া থাকে। কারণ গভর্ণমেণ্ট স্কুলগুলি সাধারণতঃ টাউনেই অবস্থিত। সেখানে ঐ বড় বড় অবস্থাশালী লোকের ছেলেরাই পড়িয়া থাকে।

তাঁহারা কি মনে করেন না, যে মফঃস্বলের সাধারণ লোকের ছেলেরা লেখাপড়া শিখিয়া মানুষ হয়। মফঃস্বল স্কুলগুলি দিন দিন দারুণ অবনতির দিকে চলিয়াছে। এমন কি অনেক স্কুল অচল অবস্থায় পৌছাইয়াছে। যদি ঐ সব স্কুলের গভর্ণমেণ্ট হইতে সুব্যবস্থা না হয় তাহা হইলে জনসাধারণের ছেলেরা শিক্ষা হইতে বঞ্চিত হইবে।

সভাপতি মহোদয়, আমি ঐসব স্কুলের শিক্ষকগণ সম্বন্ধে দুই চারিটী কথা বলিব। ঐ স্কুলগুলিতে যে সকল শিক্ষক শিক্ষকতার কার্য্য করেন তাঁহাদের qualification Government school গুলির শিক্ষকগণের চেয়ে কোন অংশে কম নহে, শিক্ষার যোগ্যতার দিকে ও ইঁহারা তাঁহাদের চেয়ে কোন অংশে কম নন; কিন্তু দুঃখের বিষয় পারিশ্রমিক প্রাপ্যের সময় রাত আর দিন বলিলেই হয়। একই প্রকার যোগ্যতা লইয়া গভর্ণমেণ্ট স্কুলের শিক্ষকগণ মফঃস্বল স্কুলের শিক্ষকগণ অপেক্ষা প্রায় পাঁচগুণ টাকা বেতন ভোগ করেন। মফঃস্বল স্কুলের শিক্ষকগণকে স্কুল বাঁচাইয়া রাখিবার জন্য তাঁহাদের ঐ সামান্য প্রাপ্য বেতনের মধ্যে শতকরা ১৫-২০ টাকা বাদ দিয়াও কাজ করিতে হয়। সর্ব্বতো-ভাবে নিঃসহায় ব্যক্তিকে সাধারণতঃ কথায় বলে "মাওড়া" এই শিক্ষকগুলির ইতিহাস পর্য্যালোচনা করিতে গেলে দেখা যায় এরাও "মাওড়া"। অতএব এই পরিষদে মন্ত্রীমণ্ডল ও সদস্যবৃন্দ মহোদয়গণের প্রতি আমার বিনীত নিবেদন মফঃস্বল স্কুলগুলি যাহাতে বাঁচিয়া থাকে, এবং ঐ সব স্কুলের শিক্ষকগণ সুশৃঙ্খলার সহিত শিক্ষকতার কার্য্য করিয়া—জন-সাধারণের ছেলে মেয়ের শিক্ষার উন্নতি করিয়া যাহাতে দেশের উন্নতি সাধন করিতে পারেন তদ্বিষয়ে বিশেষ যত্নবান হউন, এই বলে আমি আমার বক্তব্য শেষ করিলাম।

The Hon'ble Mr. A. K. FAZLUL HUQ: Sir, before I say a few words on the points that have been raised, I would ask the House to remember that we are discussing the budget which has been produced under war conditions and when the demands of economy are absolutely imperative. But in spite of all these disadvantages, I propose to cite some figures which will show that we have not been unmindful to our duty towards the Scheduled Caste people. We made a provision of Rs. 5 lakhs three years back and as soon as we found that the amount

was going to be exhausted, we had made a provision of Rs. 1½ lakhs, for the spread of education among the Scheduled Caste people, for giving stipends to college and schoolboys.

Now, Sir, a permanent provision of Rs. 19,200 has also been made for awarding scholarships to Scheduled Caste students. Over and above these, Rs. 10,000 is being given this year under a supplementary budget, out of the 5 lakhs provided, for stipends to college boys. As a result, I may tell the House, that about 75 per cent. of Scheduled Caste students will be getting stipends which is a position not available to students of the other communities.

Now, Sir, as a general rule no provision for stipend is made for post-graduate students, but having regard to the backwardness of the Scheduled Castes in higher education, about 70 per cent. of their students would be given stipends for post-graduate studies—a concession which is not given to any other community. Stipends and scholarships are reserved for students in veterinary college and engineering college; seats have been reserved in training schools and training colleges and technical schools and colleges throughout the province. Up till now Government have given subvention to the University for Scheduled Caste students and we are increasing that, and we have in contemplation the making of a commodious hostel for Scheduled Caste students in Calcutta and also increasing our grants to the University for giving stipends to hostels for Scheduled Caste students. Further, we can assure our friends that subject to the limitations of the war, we will do our utmost to advance Scheduled Caste education in the province.

The motion of Mr. Amrita Lal Mandal that the demand of Rs. 1,68,74,000 for expenditure under the head "37—Education—General" be reduced by Rs. 100 was then put and lost.

Mr. MANMATHA NATH ROY: Mr. Speaker, Sir, I beg to move that the demand of Rs. 1,68,74,000 for expenditure under the head "37—Education—General" be reduced by Rs. 100.

Sir, before I make my observations, I say at once that I do not intend to raise any communal question. I shall first begin with the Lady Brabourne College for Girls. We find that this provision of Rs. 71,000 has been made with a view to open B.A. and I.Sc. Classes in that college. May I enquire, Sir, if this heavy sum is intended to be a recurring grant or a non-recurring grant? The next question which I ask is: Has the Government any policy in making these provisions for the Government colleges? It is widely known that the demand for women's education in colleges is ever-increasing and the need of women's colleges is also very great. Now, I ask the Government, how does it propose to discharge its responsibility in that matter? Should the

Government have established the Lady Brabourne College for only a handful of women students, or should it not have thrown open the college to a large number of students of all communities? The number of women students in Calcutta is increasing every year. At present there are more than 1,500 women students in the Calcutta colleges, of whom there is provision for residence of only 300 of them, and I put it to the Hon'ble Chief Minister: Is it not a shame that not a single special hostel for lady students in colleges is maintained by the Government at its expense for the benefit of lady students all over Calcutta, at least for a considerable portion of them? This question was the subject-matter of correspondence between the University and the Government in 1937 and although the University was prepared to pay even one-half of the cost of the building, the Government has not disclosed its mind yet. That was in 1937 and to-day is 1941. Government has neither accepted nor refused the offer of the University to pay at least one-half of the cost of the building. The present Government does not appear to have paid any attention to the question of deprovincialisation of colleges. Government colleges were established so that they might serve as pioneers or models. As pioneers they may have done their work in the past, but they can no longer claim to be models, and they now cease to inspire. A comparison of the University results of non-Government colleges with those of Government colleges fails to give any justification for the continued existence of the Government colleges as such. What is now needed is greater assistance to the efforts of the community by Government grants which might be made out of the funds set free after the Government colleges are deprovincialised. The Government colleges are now absolutely unnecessary and their deprovincialisation will not merely be a measure of economy, but will be in the best interests of education, as the amount set free will greatly help the non-Government colleges in securing the efficiency and standing which most of them deserve. I may remind the present Government that after the Mukherji Retrenchment Committee had submitted report in 1923 in favour of deprovincialisation, the Minister of Education—not the present Minister of this Government but a previous minister of a previous Government—held a Conference and declared in favour of deprovincialisation, provided that the amount set free is given for the purpose of increasing the grants to non-Government institutions. That was a definite declaration which the then Minister had made at the Conference. We find that for the nine Government colleges for men there is a provision for Rs. 16 lakhs and for the two Government arts colleges for women there is a provision for Rs. 2,50,000. Now compare the niggardly amounts that have been given to the non-Government colleges for men with the figures for the Government colleges. For the non-Government Arts colleges for men, and there are

now about 50 colleges—of course all of them do not get grants; only 24 get grants—and for the 24 colleges the niggardly amount of Rs. 4,11,000 has been provided. For the non-Government colleges for women, and there are as many as 8 or 9 now, the niggardly provision of Rs. 28,000 has been made.

Now, let us see what will be the effect of the deprovincialisation. An amount of about Rs. 20 lakhs will be set free for division amongst the non-Government institutions. I have not taken into account the professional colleges, which might remain as they are at present.

I next mention the case of the recently started college, the Fazlul Huq College at Chakhar. Sir, it is a very heavy amount, and I do not know whether it is the policy of Government to treat all colleges on the same footing and to deal with them equally and uniformly. Sir, in educational matters, we ought not to proceed on any consideration other than academic, and I cannot help mentioning that there is a strong public feeling in the country that that grant, namely, Rs. 67,000, has been made to the Fazlul Huq College on grounds other than academic, and I shall ask Government to declare its policy in the matter of making grants to non-Government colleges when Government is expected to look to the welfare not merely of one college or two colleges, but of all colleges all over the province. Our Chief Minister should not forget that he is not the Chief Minister of one college or two colleges only, but he is the Chief Minister of all colleges in Bengal. (Mr. SASANKA SEKHAR SANYAL: Hear! hear!)

Khan Bahadur MOHAMMED ALI: Mr. Speaker, Sir, without moving the cut motion tabled by me, I rise to discuss generally on the main "Education" budget demand of the Hon'ble the Chief Minister.

Sir, while according my whole-hearted support to the general provisions of the "Education" budget, I think I shall be failing in my duty if I do not give expression to my criticism regarding the inadequacy of the provision for adult education. Speaking on this subject last year I stressed the extreme urgency and need for a concerted move on the part of Government to eradicate illiteracy from the province. Sir, we find that a paltry sum of Rs. 92,000 has been provided for so vast and important a problem. It seems apparent, therefore, that the Government have not fully realised the importance of adult education. Sir, it pains me to find that the Government is uselessly expending its energy and money in concentrating its attention in spreading primary education in the country. This, to my way of thinking, is puttng the cart before the horse. For I strongly hold that if illiteracy of the parents is removed and if mass education of the adults is sufficiently carried on, primary education of the children is bound to follow in the wake as a necesseary corollary. That there is provision for compulsory education in the Primary Education Act is indicative of the fact that

the problem is being tackled by Government from the wrong end. For, there cannot be any question of compulsion if the parents are made to taste the fruits of rudimentary learning? Again, we have also on the statute book a Water-Hyacinth Act. And Government have been spending annually a considerable amount of time, money and energy in campaigns for the removal and destruction of water-hyacinth. This superficially appears to be a laudable effort. But if one stops to ponder, one can realise how much wastage of money and energy can be saved if there is first an effort on the part of Government to tackle the question of removal of illiteracy. Once sufficient consciousness is aroused or a desire and taste for learning is created, there would be an all-round effort on the part of the people themselves to better their own conditions and improve their own standard of living. We have seen a province-wide water-hyacinth campaign and the sincere efforts made in this direction by Government officials. But due to indifference and callousness of the people themselves the results were far from satisfactory. Money and energy were expended, but our *beels* and rivers are as full of this lilac devil as it was before the campaign. What then has been the net gain? Had the same amount of money and energy been spent for a province-wide literacy drive, I feel confident that there would surely have been some net gain to the country. Every person made literate is, I think, some definite gain to the people and a step, however insignificant, towards the attainment of the ideals of a progressive country. I, therefore, repeat once more that the Government is putting the cart before the horse. I accordingly plead most strongly and most earnestly for a change of outlook and a change of policy in this respect. Sir, the benefits of mass primary education of the children will accrue to the country after two decades. But two decades is a long span—a very long span of time indeed—in the political history of a country. Within this span of time nations can rise from chaotic conditions to the fullest pinnacle of splendour and prosperity and at the same time history has also shown us that the most progressive of countries have tottered and fallen. Even "the sick man of Europe" is now a force to be reckoned with—and this too within a span of two decades only. When the whole history of nations is in the melting pot, we can ill-afford to waste a single moment. Now, on the other hand, the benefits of adult education will be immediate. Expedition should now be the order of the day.

Sir, it is indeed sad to reflect that when all the other provinces have started and are carrying out literacy campaigns, we in Bengal are so callously indifferent to this all-important and vital need. Governments in other major provinces are conferring incalculable benefit to the people by paying due attention to this question by launching literacy campaigns throughout the area under their respective administrations. Sir, Bengal was once the storehouse of knowledge and learning. But

now, alas, we are on the verge of an intellectual bankruptcy. We must strive to shake off our state of complacency and regain our lost pride of place. I would, therefore, urge the Government to cut down some capital expenditure on account of grants for the purpose of erecting magnificent buildings for schools and colleges. It is not the quality of buildings and their palatial nature that is wanted for Bengal where the bulk of the population live in huts and tin sheds. Attention must be paid to the equipment of schools and colleges and quality of teaching rather than providing magnificient structures for students who after completion of their period of education have to go back to their houses where the absence of *pucca* structures becomes more keenly felt and tends to create an unhapply atmosphere at home. School and college buildings should be in conformity to the standard of living of our poverty-stricken country and the savings under this head can easily be diverted for the purpose of adult education. I make this suggestion, Sir, in all seriousness, and hope that it will receive the consideration of Government which it so richly deserves. I do not therefore favour the provisions for—

(1) Building Grant to Coronation Girls' High English School—Rs. 36,058.

(2) Additional Building Grant to Madrassah—Rs. 20,000.

(3) Building Grant to Vidyasagar Banibhaban School—Rs. 18,000.

(4) Building Grant to Sarshina Madrassah—Rs. 10,000.

And would recommend the utilisation of the saving of Rs. 84,058 for adult education.

Now, Sir, I put forward a concrete and constructive proposal for the consideration of the Minister in charge. I advocate the constitution of a Board of Adult Education in Bengal with the following personnel:—

(1) Hon'ble Minister in charge of Education.

(2) and (3) Vice-Chancellors of Calcutta and Dacca Universities.

(4) Director of Public Instruction.

(5) Director of Public Information.

(6) Director of Rural Reconstruction.

(7) and (8) Two members elected by the members of the Assembly from amongst themselves.

(9) One member elected by the members of the Council from amongst themselves.

(10) One representative of the Bengal Adult Education.

(11) and (12) Two members nominated by Government,

and suggest that a recurring sum of Rs. 5 lakhs be provided for and placed at the disposal of the Board for the purpose amongst others of (1) organising literacy campaigns throughout the province, (2) constituting at all district headquarters Branch Adult Education Boards and granting subsidies to them, and (3) devising ways and means to establish night schools in the villages of the province and making monthly grants-in-aid to them.

Sir, five lakhs of rupees for such a nation-building purpose is, I am sure, not asking too much. Sir, we propose to make a grant of Rs. 1,00,000 for air raid victims of ruthless aggression and destruction. I cannot help saying that in our country we also have millions of victims of pestilence, famine and flood who are crying out for help and succour. That succour and help has been forthcoming from the present Government, but how grossly inadequate that help has been. So this extra amount of 5 lakhs of rupees which will go to the root of the solution of the problem of our ignorance, bigotry and backwardness should be found at all costs.

Sir, we have at the helm of affairs of this province, and particularly in charge of the Education portfolio, a man who is the idol of the multitude—a man who would give his life-blood for the betterment of the condition of the masses. To-day I appeal to that man in the name of the vast bulk of our illiterate and unfortunate brethern to give this matter his most urgent and most serious consideration. I am confident my appeal will not go in vain. May it so please the Almighty Providence!

Mr. A. M. A: ZAMAN : Mr. Speaker, Sir, শিক্ষা মন্ত্রী মহোদয় যে Demand এনেছেন আমি তা oppose কোরতে দাঁড়িয়েছি। তার কারণ এর মধ্যে দেখা গিয়েছে আজ কয়েক বৎসর যাবৎ যারা শ্রমিক যারা কলকারখানায় খেটে খায় তাদের জন্য একটা পয়সাও বরাদ্দ করা হয়নি এবং তাদের লেখাপড়া শেখাবার জন্য কোন সুবিধা করা হয়নি। দ্বিতীয়ত: কৃষকদের জন্য কোন সুবিধা দেওয়া হয় নাই। যদিও স্থানে স্থানে free primary school করা হোয়েছে কিন্তু তার নমুনা এই—তাদের কাছ থেকেই টাকা এনে তাদের ঘাড়ে চাপিয়ে দিয়ে বলা হোচ্ছে তোমাদের free primary education দেওয়া হোল। বাস্তবিক কি সুন্দর ভাবে করা হোয়েছে। যদি ঐ টাকাটা ঐ ভাবে না তুলে গ্রামে গ্রামে গিয়ে ওঁনারা উপদেশ দিতেন তাহলে শিক্ষার দিক দিয়ে বেশী উপকার হোত। সেটা ওঁনারা করেননি। এর মধ্যে রোয়েছে কি সেটা বোঝা দরকার। দলীয় লোকদের বোঝাবার জন্য ওঁরা এই ব্যবস্থা কোরেছেন অথচ নাম দিয়েছেন free primary education. কি দরদী। তোমাদেরই পয়সা তোমাদের ঘাড় ভেঙে নিয়ে

যাব আর তাই দিয়ে তোমাদের লেখাপড়া শেখাবো, আর বোলবো তোমাদের জন্য free primary educationএর ব্যবস্থা কোরেছি। তারপর এই শিক্ষা সম্পর্কে নিয়মকানুনও পরিষ্কার ভাবে করা হয় নাই। কোন কোন যায়গায় School Board করা হোয়েছে, কোন কোন যায়গায় তা করা হয় নাই। অর্থাৎ সুবিধা মত যেখানে দেখা গিয়েছে ওঁনাদের সুবিধা হবে, অর্থাৎ ঐ বোর্ডগুলি ওঁনাদের দলীয় কাজে লাগান যাবে সেই যায়গায় Board করবার চেষ্টা কোরেছেন। অন্যান্য যায়গায় যেখানে দেখেছেন সুবিধা হবে না সেখানে করবার চেষ্টা করেন নি। সমস্ত বাংলাদেশে plan কোরে কিছু করা হয় নাই। ওঁনারা এই Boardগুলিকে কি ভাবে কাজে লাগান তার নমুনা দিচ্ছি। ঢাকা জেলার নারায়ণগঞ্জ সাবডিভিশনের গ্রামে গত ১৫ই নভেম্বর সেলিম সাহেব যিনি সেখানকার স্কুল Boardএর Vice-President গিয়ে সভা ডাকলেন এবং teacherদের পত্র দিলেন সেখানে একটা Conference হবে। বহুদিন পরে সেলিম সাহেব এসেছেন শুনে teacherরা সব ছুটে এলেন। তখন তাদের বলা হোল—তোমরা ভয়ানক অন্যায় কোরেছ। এখানে অনেক যায়গায় Muslim League হয়নি, League করা দরকার। সামনে District Boardএর এবং School Boardএর election আসছে। তার পূর্ব্বেই এই সব যায়গায় League করা দরকার। তারপর সেখানকার স্কুলে গিয়ে একটা লম্বা বক্তৃতা দিয়ে দুএকজন teacherএর বাড়ীতে খানা খেয়ে ঘুরে ফিরে চোলে এলেন। এই হোল School Boardএর কাজ। এই কাজ কর্ব্বার জন্যই এই ভাবে School Boardগুলিকে কোরে রাখা হোয়েছে। মন্ত্রী সাহেব আজ কয় বৎসর ধোরে শিক্ষার জন্য পাগল হোয়েছেন। আগে বোলতেন কৃষকদের শিক্ষা না হোলে তাদের উন্নতি হোতে পারে না। এই কয় বৎসরে উনি কৃষকদের শিক্ষার জন্য কি ব্যবস্থা কোরেছেন তা উনি নিজের বুকে হাত দিয়ে ভাবলেই নিজের কাছ থেকে তার উত্তর পাবেন। আজকে সমস্ত কৃষক না খেয়ে মরে যাচ্ছে। তবুও তাদের কাছ থেকে tax আদায় কোরে তাদের schoolএ পাঠাতে হবে। এই primary education এখনও compulsory করা হয়নি।

দ্বিতীয়তঃ উনি একটা কলেজ কোরেছেন নিজের নামে। সেখানে কি তৈরী হবে? সেখানে কতকগুলি গোলাম তৈরী হবে চাকরি করবার জন্য। স্বাধীন ভাবে করবার জন্য কিছু করেন নি। উনি যদি একটি বা দুটি Industrial School বা College কোর্ত্তেন তাহোলে অন্ততঃ দেশের একটু উপকার করবার চেষ্টা হোত। আজকে যে সব দেশের ছেলেরা লেখাপড়া শিখেও চাকরি-বাকরি পাচ্ছে না উনি যদি একটা Industrial School বা College কোর্ত্তেন তাহোলে সেই সব ছেলেরা সেখানে শিক্ষালাভ কোরে নিজেরা ছোট খাট Industries start কোর্ত্তে পার্ত্ত অথবা Industrial fieldএ চাকরী জোগাড় কোরে নিতে পার্ত্ত। তাহোলে আমার মনে হয় ফজলুল হক সাহেবের নামের মাহাত্ম থাকতো। কিন্তু উনি জীবন ভোর ফাঁকীর মাঝখানে চোলে এসেছেন, সেই ফাঁকী দেশকে ভাল কোরে দেখাবার জন্যই এই College কোরেছেন। উনি কৃষক দরদী, উনি কৃষকের জন্য পাগল। ওঁনার কেউ নেই। গ্রামে

গেলে, কৃষকেরা কোন কথা বোললে উনি নিজের আচকান পায়জামা খুলে ওদের গায়ে ফেলে দেন আর খালি গায়ে খালি পায়ে কৃষকদের মাঝখানে গিয়ে বলেন—আমার ছেলে পিলে কেউ নেই, তোমরাই আমার সব। গাঁয়ের মেয়েরাও যাতে Collegeএ পোড়তে পারে তার ব্যবস্থা তিনি কোরেছেন। এখন থেকে মেয়েরা আর ঘরে থাকবে না। তারা ফজলুল হক সাহেবের বাড়ীতে থাকবে আর সেই Collegeএ লেখা-পড়া শিখবে (great laughter.) উনি কৃষক দরদী। কৃষকদের মেয়েদের লিখাপড়া না শেখালে, তাদের সোজাসুজি Collegeএ না পাঠালে তারা আর কিছুতেই উপযুক্ত হোতে পার্বে না। লেখাপড়া শেখবার আর অভাব নেই। তিনি যে খয়রাতী স্কুল খুলেছেন এবং এই ভাবে লেখাপড়া শেখাচ্ছেন এ ব্যবস্থাটি তারা ভাল কোরেই জানে। দুএকটা মানপত্রেও যাতে ফজলুল হক সাহেবকে অভিনন্দন করা হোয়েছে, তাতেও এ সম্বন্ধে ভাল কোরে স্পষ্ট কোরে লেখা আছে। আমার কথা হোল যদি তিনি সত্যই কিছু কোর্ত্তে চান, তাহোলে কলেজ টলেজ ছেড়ে দিয়ে প্রত্যেক districtএ, যে যায়গার সঙ্গে গ্রামের যোগাযোগ আছে সেইরূপ যায়গায় Industrial School বা College করবার জন্য কিছু কোরতেন তাহোলে আমার মনে হয় তিনি সত্যই বাংলাদেশের কিছু উপকার কোরতেন, এবং ওঁনার নাম অক্ষয় হোয়ে যেত। সেখানে হাজার হাজার ছেলে শিক্ষা পেয়ে পেটের ভাতের ব্যবস্থা কোর্ত্তে পার্ত্ত। কিন্তু তিনি তা করবার চেষ্টা কোরছেন না। ওটা কোরলে তাঁর সুবিধা চোলে যাবে। কারণ কৃষকের ছেলেরা শিক্ষিত হোয়ে উঠলে ওঁনার ফাঁকি বুঝতে পার্বে। তখন আর তারা মাননীয় প্রধান মন্ত্রী সাহেব বা তাঁর দলকে মেনে নিতে প্রস্তুত হবে না। সেই জন্য উনি চান না যে কৃষকের ছেলেরা বা শ্রমিকের ছেলেরা লেখাপড়া শিখতে পারে। আর শ্রমিকদের ও তিনি একেবারে বাদই দিয়ে দিয়েছেন কারণ উনি মনে কোরছেন ওঁর দলে এমন একজন মন্ত্রী আছেন যিনি শ্রমিকদের বগলে কোরে রেখে দেবেন আর উনি নিজে কৃষকদেরকে বগলে কোরে রেখে দেবেন। এখনও পর্যন্ত মিল areaতে শ্রমিক মন্ত্রী সাহেব শ্রমিকদের মাহিনা বাড়িয়ে দেবার ব্যবস্থা করেনি যদি ও গতবারে যখন আমরা ওঁকে বলেছিলাম উনি বলেছিলেন এ সম্বন্ধে কিছু করা হবে। কিন্তু করা দূরের কথা—এবারতো আয়ু শেষ, কি কোরবেন না কোরবেন মাথামুণ্ডু কিছুই খুঁজে পাচ্ছেন না।

মন্ত্রীরা বোধহয় মনে কোরেছেন নিজে বাঁচলে বাপের নাম। তাই নিজের নাম বাঁচবার জন্য ফজলল হক সাহেব তাড়াতাড়ি "চাখারে" একটা কলেজ কোরে রেখেছেন। এবার Hitlerএর যুগ কখন যে বোমা পড়ে কে জানে! কিন্তু কলেজটা যদি থেকে যায় তাহলে ছেলেরা পোড়বে, আর নাৎসীরাই আসুক আর যেই আসুক গোলাম তৈরী হবার জন্য training পেতে থাকবে। মনে মনে উনি জানেন কৃষক ও শ্রমিকদের শিক্ষার দিক দিয়ে কি দারুণ ফাঁকী উনি দিয়েছেন। এ রকম ফাঁকী আমার মনে হয় অন্য কোন দেশে দেওয়া যায় না। বরাবর বলা হোয়েছে Primary Education free করা হোক সেই জন্য প্রজাদের কাছ থেকে চাঁদা তুলে নেওয়া হোয়েছে অথচ নিজেদের খরচ কমিয়ে দু একটা স্কুলেও সাহায্য দিয়েছেন এমন কোন মন্ত্রীর নাম আজ পর্য্যন্ত, চাঁদার খাতায় দেখা যায় না সেই দিক দিয়ে ওঁনারা চেষ্টা করেন নাই। গরীবের ছেলের

যেখানে যেতে পারে না, যে কলেজের দরজায় যেতে হোলে হাজার হাজার টাকা খরচ করা দরকার হয় এবং যে টাকা তারা রোজগার কোরতে পারে না, সে রকম সব কলেজ কারেছেন। যাতে অজ্ঞ জনসাধারণকে শোষণ কোরতে পারা যায়, তাদের যাতে শিক্ষা না হোয়ে কু-শিক্ষা হয়, তাদের ফাঁকী দিবার জন্য এবং তাদেরকে অন্ধ কোরে রাখবার জন্য বড় বড় কলেজ করা হোয়েছে। খবরের কাগজ, আজাদ পত্রিকা দেখলেই বুঝা যায় এবার কোথায় কত কলেজ খোলা হোয়েছে। আর কোন ভাবনা নাই, আক্রম খাঁ সাহেবের, নবাব বাদ্সাদের ছেলেদের এবং আত্মীয় স্বজনদের শিক্ষার ব্যবস্থা হোয়েছে, কিন্তু, কি করে গরীব কৃষকের শ্রমিকেব ছেলেরা কলেজে যাবে? তাদেব কলেজে যাবার quaification নাই। কোথা থেকে তারা টাকা সংগ্রহ কোরবে? Industrial কোন school, college না কোরো এইরূপে তাদের ফাঁকী দিবাব চেষ্টা হোচ্ছে। আমি বলি এই ফাঁকী না দিয়ে উনি এবার হজ্ কোরে এসে মানুষ হোয়ে যাতে গবীবদের শিক্ষা হয় তার চেষ্টা করুণ। আগামী বৎসর হজে গিয়ে মতিস্থির করুন যাতে পাগলা গারদে যেতে না হয়।

The Hon'ble Mr. A. K. FAZLUL HUQ: Sir, I am thankful to my friend Mr. Manmatha Nath Roy for giving me an opportunity not merely of explaining the Government policy regarding women's education and provision of hostels for women students, but also removing certain misapprehensions regarding the college in my district which has the misfortune of bearing my name. I first take up the question of the Lady Brabourne College. I have heard it remarked that Government are spending money merely on Muslim education without paying any heed to the needs of the education of other communities. Sir, let me remind the House that the Lady Brabourne College is open to students of all communities and at the present moment we have got Hindu students, Indian Christian students as well as Muslim students, and it is no fault of ours that the number of students in this college is still very low. We have welcomed and are welcoming every student, Muslim or non-Muslim, and regarding the staff, as a matter of fact, we have not taken into consideration anything except the higher standard of education. Sir, I am myself very much concerned about women's education. I feel that women's education has been proceeding entirely on a wrong line, and the manner in which women students are sometimes huddled with boys in certain circumstances makes me apprehensive about the future of female education in this country. I therefore welcome any move to start institutions where our lady students can read in an atmosphere which would be congenial to imparting education to women students undisturbed by any of the influences which sometimes find their way in what is called co-education or even by setting apart certain hours of the day for education of women students through male professors. My idea is to have colleges

for women students where they would receive instructions at the hands of women professors and lecturers. The Lady Brabourne College is one step in that direction.

As regards the provision of hostels for women students, we are trying to meet the demands of women students in this city by co-operating with Women's Society, and over and above that I am prepared to consider with the utmost possible sympathy that we can offer any scheme that may be put forward for the establishment of a hostel in the city for women students. I suggest to my friend Mr. Roy that he should take up this question and induce the University to formulate a scheme, and I can promise that Government will fully co-operate with the University in this matter of providing hostels for women students whenever that may be ready. We cannot forget that the women's cause is also the men's cause and the education of women is a step in the direction of our national improvement. Now, Sir, as regards the Lady Brabourne College, the amount of Rs. 71,000 includes both recurring and non-recurring charges. The recurring charges will be about Rs 23,000 and the rest of it will be non-recurring for the purchase of instruments for the Science Classes. I submit, Sir, that considering the demand and having regard to the fact that we are purchasing instruments under war conditions which have increased the prices a good deal and the amount that we are going to spend over the improvement of the Lady Brabourne College by opening B.A. and I.Sc. Classes, the amount that has been budgeted is not too much.

Now, Sir, as regards that unfortunate college at Chakhar, the position is this. I feel that colleges in mere towns will not serve the purpose for which colleges are meant and that it necessary to try and bring education within the doors of our poor people in rural areas. With that object in view—I am sorry I have to strike a personal note here—I decided to start the college in my own village not for the purpose of perpetuating my name because that I do not think is necessary. I am not a man of ambition and whatever little I have done ought to be enough for me and my ambition. I have no ambition to see my name perpetuated. I was not an applicant for this nomenclature of the college. The Governing Body of the college, much against my will and in spite of my protests, decided to name the college after me, just as the Dacca University decided to name a Muslim Hall after my name. I was not an applicant for that. They have done all this out of love and affection for me. (Cries of "Oh! oh!" from the Opposition Benches.)

Leaving aside the name, Sir, I gave this college my paternal home in my district and adjoining lands worth about Rs. 50,000, and I have given some money from my own pocket. I have borrowed money to complete the building. And this sum of Rs. 67,000 represents only the debts that we owe to the various merchants and others in order to

complete the project by the time His Excellency the Governor will be able to go there and open it. Under the rules, we are entitled to get Rs. 72,000 on half-and-half basis. There are cases in which Government have paid the entire cost of construction, but in this case we have only taken the amount necessary for meeting the debts that were incurred in building the institution.

My friend Mr. Roy has been saying things and has asked me to point out whether this is the solitary instance in which Government have started a college with a contribution. May I point out to him, Sir, that we have paid Rs. 33,000 to the Bagerhat College. The City College has been paid Rs. 50,000 already and an application is still pending and we are going to spend some more money to wipe off its debts. We have paid Rs. 1½ lakhs to the Victoria Institution which is not a Muslim institution at all. We have paid Rs. 1½ lakhs to the St. Xavier's College. We have paid Rs. 2½ lakhs to the Burdwan Raj College. Therefore, Sir, we have taken only a fraction of the amount to which we are entitled under the grant-in-aid rules.

My friend Mr. Roy has said that Government colleges do not justify their existence at the present moment, because there are many non-Government colleges which are better. May I point out to him, Sir, that a scrutiny of the results will show that although some boys in these non-Government colleges occupy very high places in the different examinations, the percentage of passes in the Presidency College and other Government colleges is still higher than the percentage of passes in the case of non-Government Colleges. (Mr. SASANKA SEKHAR SANYAL: Question.) You may question, but that is a statement of fact. You may question everything.

Mr. SASANKA SEKHAR SANYAL: You have no figures. It is no use making sweeping remarks.

Mr. SPEAKER: Mr. Sanyal, the Chief Minister should not be interrupted in this way. You may not accept his figures. He may be mistaken, but you cannot interrupt him like that.

Mr. SASANKA SEKHAR SANYAL: Sir, I simply said that he was wrong.

Mr. SPEAKER: You cannot do that. As Chief Whip of your Party I expect that you will show an example in such matters.

Mr. SASANKA SEKHAR SANYAL: Sir, I did not address him. He addressed me and I simply corrected him.

The Hon'ble Mr. A. K. FAZLUL HUQ: My friend may question because he has not scrutinised the results. As a matter of fact, I had the results scrutinised by Dr. Jenkins and he put up a table before me which shows that even now as regards the percentage of passes Government colleges fare much better than non-Government colleges. (Mr. SASANKA SEKHAR SANYAL: Question.) You may question, but I say this from a scrutiny of the results.

Now, Sir, I want to say a few words to my friend Mr. Zaman. His speech has been full of direct attacks on me. I do not find my friend Mr. Bokainagri there. He has threatened me with dire consequences at the next election, but I may tell the House here and now that I propose to stand for election——

Mr. SASANKA SEKHAR SANYAL: On a point of order, Sir. Mr. Zaman's motion is already over.

Mr. SPEAKER: I think that as Mr. Zaman has mentioned it, the Hon'ble Minister is entitled to refer to it.

The Hon'ble Mr. A. K. FAZLUL HUQ: Sir, I was simply mentioning that I would stand for election from the constituency which had elected him in order to give him a chance to canvass against me. My friend Mr. Zaman, the great friend of raiyats and cultivators, sought election to the Dacca District Board from his own village home and constituency He was not merely defeated, but ran the risk of forfeiting the security deposit. (Laughter from the Coalition Party Benches.) That is the way how the cultivators repose confidence in him, and so I do not think that it lies in his mouth to question what I have done for the cultivators. The day of reckoning is coming, and we are all prepared to face it. I can tell my friend and the House that each and every member of the Coalition Party is sure of success at the next election.

The motion of Mr. Manmatha Nath Roy that the demand of Rs. 1,68,74,000 for expenditure under the head "37—Education—General" be reduced by Rs. 100 was then put and lost.

Mr. SPEAKER: I understand that there are some members who want to speak on the general demand. No more motion will be moved to-day, but those who want to speak on the general demand may do so.

Mr. SASANKA SEKHAR SANYAL: To-day it is rather late. It is about 8 o'clock now.

Mr. SPEAKER: If I feel tired, Mr. Deputy Speaker may take the Chair and he will continue as long as the House likes.

Mr. KHWAJA SHAHABUDDIN: May I submit, Sir, that very few members from our side got a chance to speak?

Mr. ABDULLA-AL MAHMOOD: Sir, there are a good number of members who are very much anxious to speak on this subject. They may be given an opportunity to-morrow, because to-day you may show the red light——

Mr. SPEAKER: What are you saying about the red light?

Mr. ABDULLA-AL MAHMOOD: Only a few minutes may be allowed to the members and that will create difficulty. I was just submitting, Sir, that some more time may be allowed to-morrow.

Mr. SPEAKER: I cannot help it.

Mr. KHWAJA SHAHABUDDIN: A shorter period may be allotted to our members, Sir.

Mr. SPEAKER: The difficulty is that every member before beginning his speech says that he will take only a short period, but afterwards speaks as long as possible. (Laughter.) That is my experience. It is not unusual for a member after he has spoken for nearly an hour to sit down saying: "with these few words, I support the motion!"

In this budget, if members to my right wanted to speak on primary education, they could have risen, but there was no speaker on this side.

Mr. ABDULLA-AL MAHMOOD: Sir, don't you allow any discussion on adult education because there is a demand under that head?

Mr. SASANKA SEKHAR SANYAL: If there are other matters on which my friends would wish to speak, we are perfectly willing to sit up late.

Mr. SPEAKER: On what motion do you want to speak? There was certainly one motion of Khan Bahadur Muhammad Ali and he was allowed an opportunity to speak, and I do not see any other motion from the Coalition side for the time being.

Mr. ABDULLA-AL MAHMOOD: In spite of the fact that a motion has been moved by Khan Bahadur Muhammad Ali, there are members who want to express their own opinion with regard to adult education.

Mr. SPEAKER: But they did not rise up.

Mr. ABDULLA-AL MAHMOOD: Sir, you did not allow them to rise up. Some members consider this matter as very important, and we request you to give them an opportunity to speak.

Mr. SPEAKER: Let them speak.

Mr. ABDULLA-AL MAHMOOD: Unless you give them an opportunity to speak, how can they speak?

Mr. SPEAKER: I am afraid it is impossible for me to explain the parliamentary practice regarding budget cut motions. So far as Government side is concerned, they take the chance when there is a cut motion moved by the other side. If in between they want to speak, they may speak on any subject. The position is that it is not for me to give a chance to the members but it is for them to take suitable opportunities, to rise up and catch my eye.

Mr. ABDUR RAHMAN SIDDIQI: Sir, may I explain to the House through you my own personal experience? I had made deep study sitting till late in the night and prepared myself to speak on cut motions under heads "General Administration," "Agriculture" and "Industries". But unfortunately the phalanx of speakers from the other side took up one after another a very long time and then the last 15 or 20 minutes were reserved for Hon'ble Ministers. The result was that I did not get a chance.

Mr. SASANKA SEKHAR SANYAL: It is open to him to improve his lot.

Mr. ABDUR RAHMAN SIDDIQI: I do not like Mr. Sanyal to interfere. May I beg of you to give us also a chance?

Mr. SPEAKER: What can I do?

Mr. ABDUR RAHMAN SIDDIQI: The Speaker's Eye should roam over the whole House.

Mr. SPEAKER: The difficulty is that there are members who never turn up till very late in the day.

Mr. ABDULLA-AL MAHMOOD: That applies to some members only, but not to others.

Mr. SPEAKER: So far as others are concerned, all I say is that I am perfectly willing to change the whole procedure if there is desire to show to the whole world that this Government are subject to as much criticism from the right as from the left.

Mr. KHWAJA SHAHABUDDIN: Sir, you are doing some injustice to the members of the Coalition Party. Many of them would like to answer the points of criticism of the Opposition on the floor of the House.

Mr. SPEAKER: As a matter of fact, I should be very glad if instead of Ministers speaking somebody on the right were to get up and defend the Ministers. That, I think, should be the proper attitude. As a matter of fact, to-day Mr. Fazlur Rahman rose—Mr. Shahabuddin was not present then—and answered Rai Harendra Nath Chaudhuri's point. Then Mr. Mafizuddin Ahmad answered Mr. Shahedali and Khan Bahadur Muhammad Ali rose and spoke about his motion. So, to-day there were members from the right who did speak. Now, it is for you to put up not about half a dozen or a dozen names, but to tell me on which particular motion members will reply at the moment. The Whip of the Party, at present, puts up before me a number of names and my difficulty is to make a choice which, I think, is not my duty.

Mr. SYED BADRUDDUJA: Why not you yourself make a choice? Our duty is not merely to offer constructive criticism but criticism in a general way. But we are prevented from doing that and we are thereby stultifying ourselves.

Mr. SPEAKER: What I feel is this. It is the duty of your party to put up one or two speakers with reference to one particular motion. Instead of that, I get a list of about half a dozen names and I do not know on which motion they would like to speak.

Mr. SYED BADRUDDUJA: Sir, we are to be guided by your decision.

Mr. SPEAKER: My decision is: let no list be given to me and on each cut motion I shall see that somebody on your side is given a chance. Otherwise it is very difficult for me at times. To-day, Mr. Fazlur Rahman replied to Rai Harendra Nath Chaudhuri on primary education; then Mr. Mafizuddin Ahmed answered Mr. Shahedali's allegations. In that way after one or two speakers from the left if somebody rises from the right, I will certainly give him an opportunity just as I gave opportunity to the members of the Scheduled Castes to-day.

Mr. SYED BADRUDDUJA: The impression has gone abroad that we do not represent any constituencies and that we have nobody to serve. That is our difficulty.

Maulvi ABUL HASHIM: Sir, may I be permitted to say a few words. We are surely members of the Coalition Party and our Chief Whip submits a list to you. But some of us, sitting here and listening to the speeches of the Opposition, may sometimes feel that it is his duty to say something. So, if one of us stands up even if his name does not appear in the list, may I appeal to you to make some concession in such circumstances. It sometimes happens that a particular individual does not express his desire to the Whip to speak on a particular day, but while sitting in the House and listening to the debate he feels he should speak.

Mr. SPEAKER: Then the best procedure would be to ask the Chief Whip not to submit any list.

Maulvi ABUL HASHIM: Sir, by this time you have known every one of us. We would appeal to you to make use of your own discretion in exceptional cases.

Mr. SPEAKER: That is very difficult for me. If a list is given, I cannot use my discretion. I would like to create a sense of discipline. If a party puts up a list, it should try to abide by it.

Mr. SYED BADRUDDUJA: In that case, we are undone.

Mr. Khwaja SHAHABUDDIN: The whole difficulty arises because the time at our disposal is very short. The number of members of the Opposition is very few, whereas the number of members of the ministerial party is very large. In view of the larger number, I submit, they must have more time. At present although the number of members on the Opposition is very few, still they monopolise the larger portion of the time.

Mr. SASANKA SEKHAR SANYAL: I shall be able to give opportunity to a larger number of speakers if more people come under my wing.

Mr. SPEAKER: I hope Mr. Shahabuddin realises another fact and that is that only 15 minutes are allotted for the budget cut motions. We have to finish about 32 demands and, excepting one or two matters, we have to finish some demands in half a day and some demands in one day. Now, one day does not mean much. Sometimes with a bit of arbitrariness I try during the budget time to shorten the question time. Then there is the prayer interval. Thus our time is very short and naturally if there is to be effective debate, it is my duty at least to see that all the Opposition parties are effectively allowed an opportunity to ventilate their points of view. Here unfortunately, as in normal

parliamentary life, we have not one Government and one Opposition side. We have got even on the Government Party. Government A, Government B and Government C and on the Opposition side, Opposition X, Opposition Y and Opposition Z. Naturally, if I have to go round the entire gamut, it means you get only one chance in spite of the fact you are about 100. What am I to do? You just see the difficulty. Anyway, we have discussed it, and I feel that if the Whips of the different parties will kindly see me a few minutes earlier, I think I can solve the difficulty and help the parties in every possible way. The best procedure, I can therefore suggest, is that in the interval between a cut motion and the putting of the original demand to vote, any number of members may be allowed to speak on the demand.

Mr. SASANKA SEKHAR SANYAL: In that case, let us extend the period of the debate, at least during budget discussion.

Mr. SPEAKER: Our difficulty is that if the Council meets, we cannot meet before 4-45 p.m., and even when the Council does not meet, it is inconvenient to meet one day, say, at 4 p.m., another day at 4-30 p.m., and on still another day at 4-45 p.m.

Mr. ABDULLA-AL MAHMOOD: Sir, it is only on very important subjects that we on this side of the House desire to have a chance to speak.

Mr. SPEAKER: I think Khan Bahadur Jalaluddin Ahmad will now speak, but let there be no more divisions to-day.

Mr. ABDULLA-AL MAHMOOD: How long will you continue the debate, Sir?

Mr. SPEAKER: As long as members on this side of the House (indicating the Coalition Party Block) would like to speak.

Rai HARENDRA NATH CHAUDHURI: Are these going to be consolation speeches?

Khan Bahadur Maulvi JALALUDDIN AHMAD: Sir, before coming to the "Education" budget itself, I can at the outset assure Mr. Rai Chaudhuri that my speech is not going to be a consolation speech, but one the sole purpose of which is to bring to the notice of Government certain important matters which must no longer be neglected. Sir, we have been returned to this Legislature not simply to record our "Ayes" and "Noes"; but we have our duties towards our constituencies, and if we find that the legitimate demands of our constituencies are being neglected, we have got to bring them to the notice of Government.

In this "Education" budget, Sir, I find an excess provision of Rs. 14,00,000 for expenditure on new schemes. I do not know, Sir, on what basis certain new schemes have been selected for being given effect to this year in preference to others, and also whether there is such a thing as priority of interests in the distribution of grants for new schemes. And in this connection, Sir, I would cite two concrete cases both of which refer to the district of Chittagong; and the first to mention is the Islamic Intermediate College which is a Government institution. The college building as well as the Madrassah building has been in a very dilapidated condition for years past, and these were condemned as long ago as in 1929 as uninhabitable by the then Executive Engineer of Chittagong. A plan was prepared at an estimated cost of one lakh of rupees and was submitted to Government in the Education Department——

Mr. ABDULLA-AL MAHMOOD: On a point of order, Sir. Is a member of the Coalition Party supporting Government entitled to speak when members of the Opposition are not present.

Mr. SASANKA SEKHAR SANYAL: Sir, the members of the Opposition are fully represented, but I was trying to form a new Coalition there (indicating the Coalition Party Block).

Mr. SYED BADRUDDUJA: But appearances are deceptive

Khan Bahadur Maulvi JALALUDDIN AHMAD: Therefore, Sir, I submit that the matter had received the attention of Government long, long ago. This year, the Assistant Director of Public Instruction for Muhammadan Education went to Chittagong to discuss the matter locally, and although the matter has since then been before Government all the time nothing whatsoever has been done so far. It is no wonder therefore if Government is held liable for any untoward circumstance happening to the boys of this college and hostel on account of the unsatisfactory condition of the building condemned by the Government Executive Engineer so long ago as in the year 1929. I know, Sir, that the Education Minister has all along been very sympathetic in this matter, but in spite of all his professed sympathy, no provision has been made by him in his budget for this purpose. I beg to submit, Sir, that it is not a private concern of mine for which I have been pressing the Government, but that it is a matter which concerns the public of Chittagong, especially the Muslims of Chittagong. And the amount of money we require is not much, but the Hon'ble Minister has failed to provide the money in his budget probably because of the fact that Dr. Jenkins differed from the proposal sent on the suggestion of the Engineer. I am sorry, Sir, that Government have neglected to fulfil this pressing public demand for such a long time.

Then, Sir, I shall cite the other case which concerns the Muslim Institute of Education Society of Chittagong which has done much to help the Muslim students there in the sphere of education. It is a society which was responsible for the growth of modern education in the whole of Chittagong Division, and it was the pioneer of the Education Societies started later on elsewhere in Bengal; and in spite of the conservative outlook of the people of Chittagong this society did much to spread modern education in our district. It has also been responsible for a three-storeyed hostel for Muslim boys when there was no hostel accommodation there which is known by the name of Victoria Islamia Hostel. It has also been responsible for a decent collection of books of Islamic culture and theology—books which if translated and published will go a long way in spreading Islamic culture in best light in our province. This society is spending Rs. 1,200 as scholarships to the post-graduate Muslim students. This society is a research society engaged in contributing to the solution of modern problems of war and finance by a reference to Quoran and the Hadis. The scheme of Muslim Institute was sponsored during the regime of the late lamented Mr. McAlpin, the then Commissioner of the Division, so far back as in 1926. Later on, the matter was taken up by the late Divisional Commissioner, Khan Bahadur Momin. He worked out a scheme and sent the proposal to Government. The then Education Secretary to Government, Mr. Wilkinson, wrote that he was prepared to approve the scheme, but on account of the financial stringency of Government they would not be able to undertake the work. Then, Sir, you, Mr. Speaker, as the Minister of Education, were kind enough to go into the question, and you did hold out a hope and the then Assistant Secretary who is now the Private Secretary to the Hon'ble the Chief Minister replied that the matter had been referred to the Director of Public Instruction who would take up the matter. Then the old Government changed, and the present Government was formed with the Hon'ble Mr. A. K. Fazlul Huq as its Chief Minister. Then we approached the Hon'ble Chief Minister when he paid his august visit to Chittagong. We submitted a memorial to him on the advice of the Commissioner of the Chittagong Division, the President of the Society. Now the full-fledged scheme covering all materials about its programme and financial aspect with plan and estimate of the Research Institute building with prayer for capital grant of Rs. 35,000 with equipment has been sent through the Divisional Commissioner to the Government for consideration. If money is not available for capital grant, we can at least expect from the Chief Minister, who is also the Minister in charge of Education, that he will find out money in the supplementary budget. Sir, I am conscious of the fact that nowadays the question is raised whether an institution of this kind can be financed out of the Government revenue. I do not know why it cannot be. It is not a question of pure library. It is a question of a research institute which is an

educational institution. Sir, I may be permitted to say that we do not want a recurring grant. We are offering Rs. 20,000 worth of land in the heart of the town. We are spending Rs. 1,200 annually for post-graduate students. We only want a capital grant of Rs. 35,000. My submission is that the Commissioner of the Chittagong Division, Mr. Martin, as the Hon'ble Chief Minister knows, is a very careful Indian Civil Servant. He never approves of a scheme unless he is convinced of the financial stability. We have provided for the recurring expenditure of Rs. 800 or Rs. 900 for publication and other things. It is not a bankrupt institution. It has got a fund of about Rs. 20,000 and also about Rs. 10,000 or Rs. 12,000 for running a hostel. It also serves as a cultural institute to the students there Sir, Chittagong provides a natural field for a cultural institute.

Sir, other parts of Bengal have got help in many directions In Calcutta the Muslim Institute and Calcutta University Institute not only got capital grants but are also in receipt of recurring grants. Dacca has got grants in many directions beside the University. But Chittagong has not got anything, neither from this Government nor from the old Government. We naturally expect that Chittagong should have a cultural institution.

Mr. ABDULLA-AL MAHMOOD: Sir, there is no quorum.

Mr. SPEAKER: I am sorry, Khan Bahadur, but my attention has been drawn to the fact that there is no quorum. I find that in spite of my giving opportunity to speakers to speak, they are more anxious to go home. I may draw the attention of the Coalition Party to the fact that so far as the list of speakers is concerned the Government side has got a fair list, and I am satisfied as to their number for to-day at least.

Adjournment.

It being 8-25 p.m.—

The House was adjourned till 4-45 p.m. on Tuesday, the 18th March, 1941, at the Assembly House, Calcutta

Proceedings of the Bengal Legislative Assembly assembled under the provisions of the Government of India Act, 1935.

THE ASSEMBLY met in the Assembly House, Calcutta, on Tuesday, the 18th March, 1941, at 4-45 p.m.

Present:

Mr. Speaker (the Hon'ble Sir MUHAMMAD AZIZUL HAQUE, C.I.E., Khan Bahadur) in the Chair, 9 Hon'ble Ministers and 184 members.

STARRED QUESTIONS

(to which oral answers were given)

Communal trouble in Malda district.

*168. **Mr. ATUL CHANDRA KUMAR:** (a) Will the Hon'ble Minister in charge of the Home Department be pleased to state whether during the last six months there was any communal trouble over the immersion procession of—

(1) *Gostha*, and

(2) *Saraswati*,

in the Malda district?

(b) Is it a fact that the Superintendent of Police, Malda, ordered prohibiting music before mosque for all time at Kansat during the last *Saraswati Puja*?

The Hon'ble Mr. A. K. FAZLUL HUQ: (a) and (b) Yes.

Mr. ATUL CHANDRA KUMAR: Will the Hon'ble Minister be pleased to state how many times a day the Muslims say their prayer?

Mr. SPEAKER: That is a matter of general information.

Mr. ATUL CHANDRA KUMAR: Sir, it is a very important question because it is about "for all times."

Mr. SPEAKER: No, no.

Mr. ATUL CHANDRA KUMAR: Is the Hon'ble Minister aware that Muslims say their prayer only five times a day?

Mr. SPEAKER: He knows that. You come to your point.

Mr. SURENDRA NATH BISWAS: Will the Hon'ble Minister be pleased to state whether it is the desire of the Government that no procession with music should pass before a mosque for all time during day or night?

The Hon'ble Mr. FAZLUL HUQ: A question arose as to whether there was a custom of processions passing by that route with music before the mosque. The report of the local authorities is that no such custom has been proved.

Mr. ATUL CHANDRA KUMAR: Will the Hon'ble Minister be pleased to state under what rule or custom the Superintendent of Police had the authority to prohibit religious processions for all time during the day?

The Hon'ble Mr. A. K. FAZLUL HUQ: The evidence that was taken showed that at no time did a procession pass that way by that particular route previously.

Mr. ATUL CHANDRA KUMAR: Is the Hon'ble Minister aware that the enquiry has not yet been finished and that the District Magistrate is still holding the enquiry?

The Hon'ble Mr. A. K. FAZLUL HUQ: I think that that is the position, but up till now the evidence shows that the custom has not been proved. I am not aware if the District Magistrate has closed the enquiry. But the last report of his shows that the custom has not been proved.

Mr. SURENDRA NATH BISWAS: Will the Hon'ble Minister be pleased to state whether there is a definite direction given to the executive authorities all over the province that procession with music should be allowed to pass outside the prayer time?

The Hon'ble Mr. A. K. FAZLUL HUQ: In some cases either of the parties can raise the question of custom and if the question of custom is raised, it is usual to go into evidence to see whether the custom has been established or not. Otherwise the general rule is to allow procession with music outside the prayer time.

Mr. SASANKA SEKHAR SANYAL: Will the Hon'ble Minister be pleased to state what is the policy of the present Government with regard to the general question of music before mosque?

Mr. SPEAKER: He has already said that the policy is that unless there is a custom which is proved satisfactorily, then music is allowed with procession before a mosque outside the prayer time.

Mr. SASANKA SEKHAR SANYAL: Apart from the question of music, my question is what is the present policy of Government with regard to procession with music before the mosque excepting prayer time?

Mr. SPEAKER: Excepting prayer time, it is allowed. He has said so.

Mr. SASANKA SEKHAR SANYAL: Sir, he has said so with regard to this particular case.

Mr. SPEAKER: No, generally.

Mr. SURENDRA NATH BISWAS: Will the Hon'ble Minister be pleased to state when Government enunciated the proposition that procession with music should be allowed outside the prayer time all over the province?

Mr. SPEAKER: That question does not arise.

Mr. ATUL KRISHNA GHOSE: Will the Hon'ble Minister be pleased to state what is the policy of the Government when differences of opinion will arise just as in the case of Malda it arose with regard to procession?

Mr. SPEAKER: You have not framed your question properly.

Mr. ATUL CHANDRA KUMAR: Will the Hon'ble Minister be pleased to state if the enquiry by the District Magistrate has been closed?

Mr. SPEAKER: He has said "No".

Mr. ATUL CHANDRA KUMAR: Will the Hon'ble Minister be pleased to state whether he is aware that he wrote a letter to Sir Manmatha Nath Mukherji to the effect that he was not in possession of the records and that it was still under his consideration?

The Hon'ble Mr. A. K. FAZLUL HUQ: That was some time ago—about 10 or 12 days ago I wrote that letter in reply to a letter which I received from him, saying that Government would do their best to meet his wishes.

Mr. SASANKA SEKHAR SANYAL: Does the Hon'ble Minister know that in this connection after the previous enquiry to which he has just referred in which an honourable member of this House, namely, Atul Chandra Kumar, had deposed, the District Magistrate has again written to the contending parties intimating that further enquiry into this matter will be made?

Mr. SPEAKER: He has said that it is being made.

Mr. SASANKA SEKHAR SANYAL: In view of that fact, will the Hon'ble Minister consider the desirability of keeping open this interpellation so that further supplementary questions may be put?

Mr. SPEAKER: He has already said that. I hope there will be no heat over the matter.

The Hon'ble Mr. A. K. FAZLUL HUQ: In case further enquiry discloses some other thing, Government will take steps accordingly.

Mr. ATUL KRISHNA GHOSE: In view of the reply given by the Hon'ble Minister, will he be pleased to state what will be the policy of Government when there will be difference of opinion between Hindus and Muslims?

Mr. SPEAKER: That is too general.

Mr. ATUL CHANDRA KUMAR: Will the Hon'ble Minister be pleased to state if he is aware that there is one and only one public road from the school leading to the *ghât* through which the Saraswati image can be taken for immersion and that there is no other route?

The Hon'ble Mr. A. K. FAZLUL HUQ: I do not know the details.

Mr. ATUL CHANDRA SEN: Sir, do I understand the Hon'ble Minister to say that a community cannot have its right to take a procession with music before a mosque established if there be no custom?

Mr. SPEAKER: He has not said that.

Mr. NISHITHA NATH KUNDU: With reference to reply (*b*), will the Hon'ble Minister be pleased to state if this order by the Superintendent of Police was passed before the enquiry into the question was taken up?

Mr. SPEAKER: Naturally.

Mr. SASANKA SEKHAR SANYAL: Will the Hon'ble Minister be pleased to state whether in view of the very tender controversial question involved, he will consider the desirability of personally going into the matter with reference to papers and oral evidence here in Calcutta instead of leaving it to the department?

The Hon'ble Mr. A. K. FAZLUL HUQ: I can assure my friends that the District Magistrate is going into the matter very thoroughly. As a matter of fact, he is trying to bring about a sort of agreement between the contending parties, and it is still hoped that he will be successful. If he is not, he will send up all these papers and we will certainly see what we can do in order to come to a satisfactory solution.

Embankment road of English Bazar town.

***169. Mr. ATUL CHANDRA KUMAR:** (*a*) Is the Hon'ble Minister in charge of the Communications and Works Department aware that the repair of the Embankment road of English Bazar town is being neglected?

(*b*) If the answer to (*a*) is in the affirmative, will the Hon'ble Minister be pleased to state whether the Public Works Department will maintain the said road?

(*c*) Is it a fact that the said road has been handed over to the English Bazar Municipality for maintenance?

MINISTER in charge of the COMMUNICATIONS and WORKS DEPARTMENT (the Hon'ble Maharaja Srischandra Nandy, of Cossimbazar): (*a*) I have no information. Government, however, are not responsible for the maintenance of the crest of the Embankment as a road.

(*b*) Does not arise.

(*c*) It has recently been decided to permit the English Bazar Municipality to maintain the crest of the Mahananda Embankment, lying within the Municipal area, as a road at their own cost. A draft agreement has accordingly been drawn up and forwarded to the Commissioner of the Rajshahi Division for obtaining the approval of the Municipality.

Mr. ATUL CHANDRA KUMAR: Will the Hon'ble Minister be pleased to state if the whole of the Embankment Road beginning from Jhowghat near the Co-operative Bank to the junction of English Bazar in Kutubpur is included in the agreement?

The Hon'ble Maharaja SRISCHANDRA NANDY, of Cossimbazar: I am afraid, I cannot give the details wanted by the honourable member but, as I have stated in my reply, it has been decided to permit the municipality to maintain the road which comes within their jurisdiction.

Mr. NIHARENDU DUTTA MAZUMDAR: With reference to answer (*a*) that he has no information, will the Hon'ble Minister be pleased to state what steps did he take to elicit information about this question as to whether the road was being neglected or not?

The Hon'ble Maharaja SRISCHANDRA NANDY, of Cossimbazar: That is not the lookout of this department.

UNSTARRED QUESTION

(to which answer was laid on the table)

Grant of stipends to Scheduled Caste college students.

63. **Mr. BANKU BEHARY MANDAL:** (*a*) Will the Hon'ble Minister in charge of the Education Department be pleased to state whether any stipend has been granted this year to Scheduled Caste students reading in the 1st year and 3rd year classes of colleges of Bengal?

(*b*) If the answer to (*a*) is in the negative, will the Hon'ble Minister be pleased to state what action he proposes to take in the matter?

MINISTER in charge of the EDUCATION DEPARTMENT (the Hon'ble Mr. A. K. Fazlul Huq): (*a*) Not yet.

(*b*) The matter is under consideration.

Mr. CHARU CHANDRA ROY: Will the Hon'ble Minister be pleased to state whether he is aware that the 1st and 3rd Year Classes are going to be finished by the end of April? If he is aware, in view of that fact, will he be pleased to state when this consideration will be finished?

The Hon'ble Mr. A. K. FAZLUL HUQ: That matter is being considered, and we will take that into consideration.

Babu PREMHARI BARMA: Will the Hon'ble Minister be pleased to state the reason why the Scheduled Caste students of the 1st and 3rd Year Classes have not up till now got their stipends though it is practically the end of the financial year?

The Hon'ble Mr. A. K. FAZLUL HUQ: The money that was originally allotted was exhausted, and meanwhile it took some time for us to make a new provision, and we are trying to find out the hard cases which require to be immediately dealt with so that stipends may be given to students in order that their studies may not be interrupted

Change in the Agenda.

Mr. SPEAKER: Before I take up other cut motions on the "Education" budget, I might say in respect of the demands under "Medical" and "Public Health" that the Hon'ble Minister's presence is urgently required outside Calcutta for some days, and I am satisfied on that point. I would therefore suggest that we will pass over "Medical" and "Public Health" and immediately after the "Jails" and "Police" demands are disposed of, we will take up "Irrigation" and "Civil Works." I will let you know later on when "Medical" and "Public Health" will be taken up.

Left over Questions.

Mr. MADHUSUDAN SARKAR: What will be done with the questions left over, Sir?

Mr. SPEAKER: They will have their chance in the usual course

DEMAND FOR GRANT.

37—Education—General.

Mr. JATINDRA NATH BASU: Sir, I beg to move that the demand of Rs. 1,68,74,000 for expenditure under the head "37—Education—General" be reduced by Rs. 100.

Mr. Speaker, Sir, I do not think it is necessary for me to urge upon the attention of this House the importance of the *Visva Bharati*. It is an institution that aims at bringing together the different kinds of

cultural activities that have attracted the attention of the different peoples of the world. You have in the *Viswa Bharati* institutions for the study of Chinese culture, of Iranian culture, and the different aspects of Hindu and Muslim culture. It is likely to bring about that coalition of cultures for which the Right Hon'ble Sir Tej Bahadur Sapru pleaded in his last Convocation address before the University of Calcutta. Sir, Government rightly recognised the claims of the *Viswa Bharati* by budgeting for a grant last year. That grant has not yet been paid, but I understand that there is no difficulty now in the payment of that grant. But in the budget now before the House there is no provision for a grant to the *Viswa Bharati*. Sir, in this House our attention is directed to different kinds of education in this province. But it is the culture of the people that gives them ideals and that inspires them with enthusiasm for progress. While primary and secondary education are undoubtedly necessary, it is as much necessary that the higher culture of the people should not be permitted to languish but should be looked after in a way that it will not lead to a conflict of cultures but to a mutual recognition of different kinds of culture so that there may be peaceful progress in this country and elsewhere. I trust that the Hon'ble the Chief Minister who is also in charge of the Department of Education will appreciate the importance of the work that is being done by the *Viswa Bharati* and extend to that institution the hand of help as he did last year.

Mr. SATYAPRIYA BANERJI: Mr. Speaker, Sir, I rise to move the motion that stands in my name, namely, that the demand of Rs. 1,68,74,000 for expenditure under the head "37—Education—General" be reduced by Rs. 100.

The purpose of my moton is to raise a discussion on the want of a definite policy in the matter of adult education.

Sir, I confess that I shall not be able to do justice to the problem which is as vast as it is complex, as important as it is urgent, during the very short time at my disposal. I have made in my own humble way an exhaustive and careful study of adult education abroad and other provinces of India, and I shall try as briefly as possible to place before you what has been done in other countries and provinces so that their examples may serve as an object lesson to our Ministry—although it is hoping against hope—and spur them to activity and enthusiasm.

I regret to have to note, Sir, that we have bestowed almost no attention to this all-important problem so far during the last four years barring perhaps the occasion on which a non-official Bill on adult education was introduced in this House and yesterday when my esteemed colleague, Khan Bahadur Mohammad Ali, pleaded very

strongly for the cause of adult education. I have been charged by my party to place before you the problem of adult education—a problem with which the present Ministry has been tinkering and playing and not tackling to find out a proper solution. I say, playing, deliberately, because did not the present Ministry appoint a committee to consider the problems of primary and adult education in July, 1938? The committee published its valuable advice on primary education embodied in its report of 1939—I say, "valuable" for what else can it be and how otherwise can I characterise an advice limiting the primary schoolgoing age from the 6th to the 9th, coming as it does from the presiding Deity of the committee, the omniscient and omnipotent Government expert, Dr. W. A. Jenkins, a Doctor of the University of Sheffield, famous for its cutleries, and it is no wonder that he has cut at the very root of all pedagogy and psychology of children by limiting the maximum age to the ninth year. ("Hear! hear!" from the Opposition Benches.) I could have understood him if he had recommended the age up to the 12th year beginning from the 8th year. In the language of one of the members of the committee, Mr. H. S. M. Ishaque in his note of dissent, "The policy of letting out children at the age of 9 and washing hands off them at this tender age is too unsound to be supported. In my opinion they should be kept attached to the public schools in one profitable pursuit or another at least for two years. In the alternative the age for the public school should be 8 to 12. We should aim to prepare and equip them for life, and this question has not been tackled at all." A greater indictment of the recommendations of the committee could not have been made. So far with regard to the Report on Primary Education which, to say the least, is as hopeless as it is dangerous and mischievous. But the committee has been, it appears, sleeping or at the best, wagging their tail over the problem of adult education.

Sir, adult education, as has been already said, is a vast and all-important problem. It occupies an abiding place in the scheme of education of a country. I know it is hardly possible to distinguish between the aims of adult education and those of education in general and the case of adult education rests on the belief that it is necessary for the fulfilment of the aims of education as a whole. If education has for one of its objects to fit a man for earning his living, provision must have to be made for increasing his capacity for earning. If education has for its main purpose the fitting of a man for life, there must be provision made for him to utilise his leisure, which he has in plenty, for the enrichment of his individual personality; if education has for its purpose moulding of society so that each individual may have equal opportunities under equal conditions for the development of social responsibility, provision must be made for preparing the common man for this noble purpose; if education has for its object

to enable its recipient to be an active participant in citizenship and not a mere passive tool, as he now is, provision must be made for fitting him for those duties of citizenship without the proper discharge of which no democracy can effectively and properly function. Viewed from these points of view, Sir, adult education assumes a place in the scheme of education of a country, the importance of which it is hardly possible to exaggerate and the conclusion becomes irresistible, to quote the words of the famous Report of Adult Education Committee of the Ministry of Reconstruction, 1919, that, "Adult education must not be regarded as a luxury for a few exceptional persons here and there nor as a thing which concerns only a short span of early manhood, but that adult education is a permanent national necessary, an inseparable aspect of citizenship and, therefore, should be both universal and lifelong" and that "the opportunity for adult education should be spread uniformly and systematically over the whole community." In this connection, may I point out that the Educational Sub-Committee of the National Planning Committee set up by my leader, that far-sighted political leader and statesman Deshagourab Subhas Chandra Bose ("Hear! hear!" and applause from the Opposition Benches.) has in their interim report recommended that "the aim of adult education is to provide necessary intellectual and emotional training to an adult (who either did not receive any education in their early life, or do not have any opportunity of maintaining or extending their early literacy by taking advantage of the ordinary educational institution providing regular course of instruction) to enable him to live a richer and fuller life among his fellow-citizens."

Sir, the achievement of adult education in other countries of the world has been many and varied. England with its voluntary agencies such as Workers' Educational Association, National Council of Labour Colleges, National Adult School Union, Community Centres, University Extension Courses and University Tutorial Classes, etc., assisted by the Local Education Authorities is catering to the needs of adults by providing every means which human ingenuity can devise from intellectual, aesthetic, social and cultural to recreational activities. America with its 175 national organisations for adult education and the teaching programme of the Works Progress Administration commonly known as W.P.A. are devoting their time and energy for educating the adult of the country, and it is estimated by the Government that one million and three hundred thousand people were regularly taking advantage of the free classes and other activities which this programme provided. France with Workers' Institute and Labour College now combined under the title Workers' Education Centre is encouraging the use of leisure for educational purposes, to strengthen trade unionism and to develop a new humanism. Germany

with its Gesellechaft for Volkabildug and Volkeschule, the educational activities of the trade unions, Denmark with its famous Folk High Schools, Netherlands with its Workers' Educational Institute are doing their very best, in the historic words of Robert Lowe, "to educate their masters." China and Japan are also doing a lot for educating their adult population. Last but not the least Russia which 25 years back was almost on a level with India so far as literacy was concerned can now boast to have the most enlightened adult population, thanks to the adult education activities of the much maligned Soviet Government.

I have presented before you, Sir, as briefly as possible a map of adult education. May I ask the members of the House to ponder over the question, where do we stand? I shall, Sir, in my own humble way try to give an outline of the state of affairs in our country in its historical perspective so that my colleagues can come to a right decision in the matter. I will not take up the time of the House by referring to the *jatras*, *kathakathas* and other forms of adult education prevalent in our country, for that is common knowledge. The germ of the idea of modern adult education is to be found in the famous despatch of 1854 wherein the Court of Directors, perhaps influenced by the social ferment in England at the time, laid down: "Our attention should now be directed to a consideration........ which has hitherto, we are bound to admit, been too much neglected, namely, how useful and practical knowledge suited to every station in life could be best conveyed to the great mass of the people who are utterly incapable of obtaining any education worthy of the name, by their own unaided efforts, and desire to see the active measures of Government more specially directed for the future to this object, for the attainment of which we are ready to sanction a considerable increase in expenditure." After these we had three Education Commissions—the Commission of 1882, of 1902 and the Sadler Commission of 1917. I regret to have to note that none of those Commissions had anything to say with regard to adult education. It was not until 1922 when the Government of India suddenly became alive to this problem and published a report on adult education. In the preface to this report Mr. A. I. Mayhew, officiating Educational Commissioner to the Government of India, remarks: "In a country committed to progressive responsible Government the organisation of all resources available within and without our schools and colleges for the equipment of effective citizens becomes an imperative necessity. ......the fact that a large portion of the population is illiterate must not divert attention from the claims of the literates. We cannot afford to ignore any assailable point in the ramparts of ignorance that are flung widely across the path of India's advance." But nothing tangible was done or attempted to be done till under the Government of India Act, 1935,

Congress assumed Government in certain provinces. Sir, the problem of adult education in India is quite unlike that in the Western countries. There adult education begins when elementary education and education in Continuation Schools ends. Here adult education comprises, as it must in a population the microscopic minority of which is literate, adult literacy and can be classified broadly under two heads—(1) the liquidation of illiteracy amongst the grown-up people, and (2) the further education of literates at any stage and in any direction throughout the whole career of their life for enrichment of individual personality and development of social responsibility, and acquiring knowledge which alone would give them power to change the present accusitive society into one which will give equality of opportunity to all under equality of conditions.

Sir, the liquidation of illiteracy must be given the first place for who can deny the force of the words of Lenin that "Liquidation of illiteracy is not a political problem; it is a condition without which it is impossible to speak of politics. An illiterate man is outside of politics and before he can be brought in he must be first taught the alphabet. Without this there can be no politics—only rumours, gossip, tales, superstition." But at the same time we should not be unmindful and oblivious of the ultimate end of adult education—the two processes should be carried on simultaneously so that on the foundation of literacy we can equip the adult to lead a better, fuller, richer and nobler life.

I confess, Sir, to a sense of disappointment and shame that our Ministry is lagging behind while the Ministries of other provinces, especially Bombay, United Provinces and Bihar, are pushing on vigoursly and energetically to wipe out illiteracy from their respective provinces. Sir, the Congress Government of Bombay appointed a committee of experts in 1938 with Dr. Clifford Manshardt as Chairman to advise it on the question of adult education. The committee submitted its report in the same year. This report, Sir, is a valuable contribution to the literature on adult education; it very rightly pointed out that the first step in adult education was to enable the people to overcome the dejection and apathy and find an interest in life, and mentioned various types of adult education activities ranging from propaganda, attainment of literacy, vocational education, extension classes, self-initiated group movement for self-improvement, movements which regard adult education as a necessary and continuing function in the total life of the communities and recreational activities.

In the sphere of practical activities also Bombay initiated the mass literacy campaign to rouse the public conscience to imperative and immediate need of education for the adult population and the liquidation of illiteracy among all section of people, a campaign

in which the Government, voluntary organisations, and social workers took an active part with excellent results. The United Provinces also have attempted to tackle the problem in right earnest. It has been rightly decided by the Government that the problem of literacy is too urgent to wait for solution till the Rural Development Department is able to undertake the work in the whole province and the Government created the Education Expansion Department with an education expansion officer at its head. The main object of this departmnet is to banish illiteracy from the province and to maintain it at a sufficiently high level—it is planning to stamp out illiteracy in the maximum period of a decade.

And, Sir, last but not least Bihar under the dynamic personality of Dr. Syed Mahmud, Minister of Education, launched a mass literacy campaign on the 26th of April, 1938, both intensive and extensive. As a result of the extensive campaign up to the end of June, 1939, as many as 14,259 literacy centres conducted by 15,926 volunteer workers no less than 6 lakhs of people have become literate and the intensive campaign in two subdivisions and one thana in each district has resulted in 4,000 villages having become literate. It is interesting to note that the first six months of the campaign did not cost a single farthing to the Government which, however, has been progressively increasing their grants in lakhs for the purpose.

Let us, Sir, now come to our unfortunate benighted province of Bengal. It has committed the initial blunder of tagging adult education to rural reconstruction. I do not deny that adult education forms a very important part of rural reconstruction, but as has been already demonstrated in the case of United Provinces adult education will suffer if it does not become the sole concern of a special department, or at least a special officer to be called the adult education officer. Sir, compared with the other provinces, especially with Bihar under the inspiring guidance of Dr. Syed Mahmud, a brother-in-faith of our Chief Minister, Hon'ble A. K. Fazlul Huq, he ought to hang down his head in shame for not having done anything in this regard. But I remember the words of immortal Girish Chandra Ghosh, "তোমারে কি লজ্জাদিব, তুমি লজ্জাহীন, সম তব মান অপমান" (*"Tomarey ki lajja dibo, tumi lajja-hin, sama tobo man apaman"*). ("Hear! hear" from the Opposition Benches.) In a previous budget, the magnificent sum of Rs. 10,000 was allotted for adult education and even this sum could not be spent. This year a sum of Rs. 79,000 has been granted for the purpose, but we do not know how will this sum be spent or whether this sum will be spent at all. I am thankful to my esteemed colleague Khan Bahadur Muhammad Ali for having submitted an outline as to what the Government ought to do in this regard. I confess that, although I agree with him in curtailing expenditure on buildings, etc., and diverting the released sum to

adult education purposes, I agree to differ from him with regard to the constitution of a Central Board. The personnel of the Board as proposed by him will be totally from the officials and from the members of the Coalition Party. I propose, therefore, in addition to the creation of an Adult Education Department or at least an Adult Education Officer—

(1) that the committee appointed in 1938 be forthwith dissolved, because they have been weighed in the balance and found wanting and a new committee enjoying the confidence of the people, Hindus and Mussalmans alike, composed of educational experts and representatives of nation-building department of the Government and some well-known social workers be forthwith set up with instruction to submit their report within 4 months. This is not impossible, Sir, as the Bombay Adult Education Committee was appointed on the 26th January, 1939, and submitted its report in April of the same year!

(2) till then, the Government do constitute a Central Board organisation—an organisation which will command the confidence of the public and not an organisation of the type proposed yesterday by Khan Bahadur Muhammad Ali through which the Government should disburse all money for adult Education activities in the province. The functions of this organisation will amongst others be—

(*a*) training of workers;

(*b*) production of literature suitable for adult education;

(*c*) to make a realistic survey of the adult population of Bengal to arrive at a correct estimate of the problem of adult education;

(*d*) for intensive work, selection of suitable places in the province where adult education in all its aspects may be imparted;

(*e*) to act as liaison between the Government and the public;

(*f*) to approach the University for extension lectures;

(*g*) to arrange for peripatetic lectures;

(*h*) to be in touch with other voluntary organisations; and

(3) the Government do make arrangements for installation of radio wherefrom the villagers can, during their leisure in the evening, derive knowledge useful to them.

Sir, I have done, before I conclude let me utter the following note of warning: The present Ministry has been notorious for its communal-mindness. Lest they forget that they are Ministers not of a particular community but of Hindus and Mussalmans and other communities of Bengal, I ask them to remember the words of the Bombay Committee: "Adult education is not mass political propaganda. The Government of a country is in the interest of all political groups, and there is grave danger when the machinery of education is used to further the interest of any particular political party." (Applause from the Opposition Benches.)

Mr. W. C. WORDSWORTH: Sir, I understand that at this stage I may say a few sentences on motion No. 10. I wish to speak only three or four sentences. This group, while not supporting Mr J. N. Basu's cut motion, wishes to associate itself with the purpose of that motion. The institution under our consideration is *Viswa Bharati* and for that reason there are some who consider that it falls outside the limits of our proper interest as custodians of the welfare of our educational system. But we in this group believe that because it is *Viswa Bharati*, because it does something to our educational system that does not come from any other direction, it deserves special consideration at the hands of Government. It has its own ideals and its own conceptions. It carries out its own activities in its own way and the variety that it gives to us is very welcome for we know that our educational system in general suffers from too little variety. We believe that the institution is doing valuable work in enriching the outlook of this province and of its education, and we trust that Government will find it possible to give the support that is asked for.

Mr. SARAT CHANDRA BOSE: Last year I had occasion to criticise the Government for not paying the *Viswa Bharati* the amount which had been budgeted. I was glad to learn later that the criticism offered from this side of the House had the desired effect and the money which had been budgeted had been released. I did not expect, Sir, that we would have to refer to the same subject again this year. But what do we find? The facts are these. The *Viswa Bharati*, at the instance of the Government and under the advice of Dr. Jenkins, started a new grade for its teaching staff. The officer of the Government deputed to go into the matter with the authorities of the *Viswa Bharati* examined the implications of the new grade and found that it meant an additional cost of Rs. 50,000 a year. And after that the same officer recommended to Government that Government ought to bear half the cost. That is why, Sir, Rs. 25,000 was budgeted in 1939-40 for that institution. The same grade exists; the *Viswa Bharati* has had to meet those recurring charges because of the new grade which was

fixed for the teaching staff, and yet we find that though Government was a party to that arrangement made by the *Viswa Bharati*, Government have now become niggardly even in respect of that institution, and though money was provided in the last year's budget, that money has not yet been released to the *Viswa Bharati*. The revised estimates show that that money has not yet been paid. Reminders after reminders have been sent by and on behalf of the *Viswa Bharati*, but the last reply was that the matter was under consideration. So far as the *Viswa Bharati* is concerned, it is unnecessary for me to dilate on the merits of that institution. It is an institution which represents not only all the different cultures in this land of ours, but the cultures of different countries in the world. It can properly be described as the "Hall of All Nations." I therefore support the proposal of my esteemed friend, Mr. Jatindra Nath Basu, that immediate steps be taken for releasing the amount budgeted last year to the *Viswa Bharati*, and that the same course of action be adopted with respect to the grant provided in this year's budget.

The Hon'ble Mr. A. K. FAZLUL HUQ: Sir, with regard to this grant to the *Viswa Bharati* I may tell the House that the money was not paid as voted last year under certain circumstances, but whatever those circumstances may be, the money will be paid immediately. The reason for this delay was that some members of this House put up certain proposals to the Government for conveying them to the authorities of the *Viswa Bharati* for their acceptance. They could not see their way to accept those proposals and the matter was therefore under consideration. But whatever that may be, we are now in honour bound to pay that money, and as a matter of fact orders have already been passed and the money will be paid without delay.

Mr. JATINDRA NATH BASU: Sir, in view of the statement made by the Hon'ble the Chief Minister, I beg leave of the House to withdraw my motion

The motion of Mr. Jatindra Nath Basu that the demand of Rs 1,68,74,000 for expenditure under the head "37—Education—General" be reduced by Rs. 100, was, by leave of the House, withdrawn.

Maulana ABDUL AZIZ: মাননীয় সভাপতি সাহেব! আমি অদ্য মাদ্রাসা education সম্বন্ধে কিছু বলিতে চাই। বর্ত্তমানে বাংলায় দুই প্রকারের মাদ্রাসা আছে। একটী old scheme ও একটী new scheme. ১৯১৬ সাল হইতে new scheme মাদ্রাসার সৃষ্টি হইয়াছে। এখন বাংলাদেশে new scheme মাদ্রাসার সংখ্যা অনেক বেশী কিন্তু উভয় শ্রেণীর মাদ্রাসারই বিশেষ করিয়া old scheme মাদ্রাসাগুলির অবস্থা বিশেষ খারাপ। এতদিন পর্য্যন্ত old scheme মাদ্রাসাগুলিকে টাকা পয়সা দেওয়া হইত না।

বর্ত্তমানে আমাদের প্রধান মন্ত্রীর অনুগ্রহে গত দুই বৎসর যাবত old scheme মাদ্রাসাগুলির মধ্যে কোন কোন মাদ্রাসা কিছু টাকা সাহায্য পাইতেছে। বর্ত্তমানে বাংলাদেশে ১৪৪টী senior মাদ্রাসা এবং অনেকগুলি জুনিয়ার মাদ্রাসা আছে এর মধ্যে মাত্র ৫৬টী senior মাদ্রাসা এবং একটী জুনিয়ার মাদ্রাসা যৎসামান্য grant পাইতেছে। একটী ১৮৲ টাকা আর একটী ২৫৲ আর ৩০টী ৫০৲ সাতটী ৬০৲ ৩টী ৬৫৲ পাঁচটী ৭৫৲ চারটী ১০০৲ একটী ১২৫৲ এবং আর একটী ২৫০৲ মাসিক সাহায্য পাইতেছে। ইহা হইতে দেখা যায়—মাত্র ৪।৫টী মাদ্রাসা ভাল grant পাইতেছে আর বাকীগুলি নামে মাত্র। যাহা খরচ হয় তার ¼th basis এ সাহায্য দেওয়া হইতেছে। এই সাহায্য পাইয়া তাহারা বিশেষ লাভবান হইতেছে না। আমি মাননীয় শিক্ষামন্ত্রী সাহেবকে অনুরোধ করিতেছি তিনি এই grant বাড়িয়ে দেবার চেষ্টা করুন। এ ছাড়া মাদ্রাসাগুলি যাহাতে building grant পাইতে পারে সেদিকে গভর্ণমেণ্টের দৃষ্টি আকর্ষণ করিতেছি। তাছাড়া মাদ্রাসাগুলিতে ছাত্রদের scholarship ও stipend অত্যন্ত কম। এবং তাহাদের hostel এর সুবন্দোবস্ত নাই। আমি এদিকেও গভর্ণমেণ্টের দৃষ্টি আকর্ষণ করি। এ সম্বন্ধে আমি বিশেষ করিয়া বলিতে চাই যে, হাজি মোহাম্মদ মোহ্সীন সাহেব মুসলমান ছাত্রদের শিক্ষার জন্য যে অর্থ রাখিয়া গিয়াছিলেন তাহা কোথায় ব্যয়িত হইতেছে তাহা টের পাইতেছি না। উনি একজন বড় ধার্ম্মিক লোক ছিলেন। উনি তাঁহার সম্পত্তির বড অংশ শিক্ষা বিস্তারের জন্য wakf করিয়াছিলেন। ১৮৭০ খৃষ্টাব্দে হুগলী ও ঢাকায় যে মাদ্রাসাগুলি স্থাপিত হইয়াছিল সেগুলি মোহ্সীন মাদ্রাসা নামে অভিহিত হইয়াছিল। দুর্ভাগ্যবশত: মাদ্রাসাগুলিকে ১৯১৭ সালে নিউ স্কিম হাই মাদ্রাসায় পরিণত করা হইয়াছে। এখন আর সেগুলিতে হাজি মোহাম্মদ মোহসীনের নামগন্ধও নাই। তিনি যখন এই টাকা পয়সা দিয়াছিলেন তখন এদেশে ইংরাজি শিক্ষার জন্ম হয় নাই। তখন এদেশের লোকেরা দক্ষিণ হইতে বাম দিকে লিখিত। হাজি সাহেবের মৃত্যুর ৫ বৎসর পরে A. B. C. D এদেশে পদার্পণ করিয়াছিল। তিনি এই টাকা আরবী শিক্ষার জন্য ব্যয়িত হইবে মানসে দিয়াছিলেন। তিনি নিতান্ত ধর্ম্মভীরু লোক ছিলেন এবং কোরাণ শিক্ষার অত্যন্ত উদ্যোগী ছিলেন। কিন্তু সে টাকাটা তাঁহার বাঞ্ছিত শিক্ষার জন্য ব্যয়িত না হইয়া অবাঞ্ছিত শিক্ষার জন্য ব্যয়িত হইতেছে ইহা বড়ই দু:খের বিষয়। এরূপ জানিলে তিনি কখনই তাঁহার ওয়াক্ফ grant দিতেন না। এখন যাঁরা এটাকার মালীকগিরী করেন তাঁদের কাছে অনুরোধ তাঁরা মেহেরবানী করে মরহুম হাজি সাহেবের টাকা পয়সা আরবী শিক্ষার জন্য ব্যয়িত করুন। এখন আরবী শিক্ষার মা বাপ নাই। আরবী শিক্ষার অসুবিধা দূর করতে হ'লে গভর্ণমেণ্টের একটা আরবী University করা উচিত আর এই আরবী University যদি মাদ্রাসাগুলির পরিচালনা করে তাহা হইলে আশা করি এ সব মাদ্রাসার অবস্থা ভাল হইবে। আমি মাননীয় প্রধান মন্ত্রী সাহেবের এদিকে দৃষ্টি আকর্ষণ করি। আর একটী বিষয়ে তাঁহার দৃষ্টি আকর্ষণ করি, তাহা হইতেছে D. P. I. circular যার দ্বারা মাদ্রাসাগুলি ধ্বংস হইয়া যাইবে। পূর্ব্বে মাদ্রাসাগুলি জানুয়ারীতে session আরম্ভ করিত এখন তাহাদিগকে জুলাইএ session আরম্ভ করিতে বলা হইয়াছে। এ অবস্থায় অধিকাংশ ছেলে হাই স্কুলে চলিয়া যাইবে মাদ্রাসাগুলি ছেলে পাইবে কোথায়?

কাজেই আমি প্রধান মন্ত্রী সাহেবকে অনুরোধ করি তিনি D. P. I. এর order cancel করিয়া জানুয়ারীতে session আরম্ভ করিবার order দেন। তারপর মাদ্রাসার ছেলেরা ৮০ নম্বর পাইলে 1st Divisionএ এবং ৬০ নম্বর পাইলে 2nd Divisionএ পাশ করে কিন্তু হাই স্কুলের ছেলেরা ৫০ নম্বর পাইলে 1st Divisionএ এবং ৪০ নম্বর পাইলে 2nd Division ও ৩০ নম্বর পাইলে 3rd Divisionএ পাশ করে। আরবী ভাষা অত্যন্ত শক্ত ভাষা অতএব পরীক্ষায় পাশের মার্ক কমাইয়া দেওয়া উচিত। আমি এদিকে গভর্ণমেণ্টের দৃষ্টি আকর্ষণ করিতেছি। মুসলমানদের মধ্যে আরবী শিক্ষার জন্য প্রত্যেক primary schoolএ একজন করিয়া মৌলবী বা কাজী সাহেব নিযুক্ত করিলে ছাত্রেরা আরবী শিক্ষা করিতে পারিবে। ঐ সব ছাত্রেরা পরে মাদ্রাসায় ভর্তি হইতে পারিবে।

Mr. GIASUDDIN AHMED: Mr. Speaker, Sir, I beg to move that the demand of Rs. 1,68,74,000 for expenditure under the head "37—Education—General" be reduced by Rs. 100.

সভাপতি মহোদয় আমার প্রস্তাবের মর্ম্ম হোচ্ছে এই যে সমস্ত গভর্ণমেণ্ট স্কুল কলেজ এবং গভর্ণমেণ্টের সাহায্য প্রাপ্ত স্কুল কলেজের ছাত্র ও ছাত্রীদের বেতন কমাবার ব্যবস্থা করা একান্ত প্রয়োজন। আমার বিশ্বাস সকলেই এর প্রয়োজনীয়তা উপলব্ধি করেন। অবশ্য যারা জমিদার, যারা বড়লোক বা যারা উচ্চ বেতনে চাকরি করেন তাঁরা হয়ত এ প্রস্তাবের প্রয়োজনীয়তা অনুভব করেন না। আমি তাঁদের কথা বোলছিনা। শুনা যায় বড়লোকরা একটি কুত্তা পোষবার পেছনেই দুজন খানসামা রাখেন। কাজেই তাঁদের ছেলে মেয়েদের শিক্ষার জন্য যে টাকার অভাব হয় না সেকথা বুঝি। তাঁরা হয়ত আমার প্রস্তাবের প্রতি সহানুভূতি প্রদর্শন না কোর্ত্তে পারেন। তবে আমাদের মাননীয় প্রধান মন্ত্রী এবং শিক্ষা মন্ত্রী সাহেব নিজে যদিও বড়লোক তবু আমি বিশ্বাস করি তিনি গরীব জনসাধারণের অবস্থার কথা জানেন এবং আমার প্রস্তাব সমর্থন কোরবেন। বাংলার জনসাধারণের দৈনন্দিন অবস্থার কথা একবার বিবেচনা করুণ। বিশেষ কোরে কৃষক-প্রজা, মধ্যবিত্ত সম্প্রদায়ের লোক এবং যারা অল্প বেতনে চাকরী করেন তাঁদের আয় বাড়ে নাই অথচ তাঁদের খরচ দিন দিন বেড়ে যাচ্ছে। এই অবস্থায় বর্ত্তমানে স্কুল কলেজে বেতনের যে হার নির্দ্দিষ্ট আছে সেই বেতন জুগিয়ে ছেলেমেয়েদের শিক্ষার ব্যবস্থা কোর্ত্তে পারেনা। এদেশে এত দিন যে বেশী শিক্ষার বিস্তার হয় নাই তার প্রধান কারণ আমাদের বিদেশী শাসকেরা আমাদের মূর্খ কোরে রেখে শাসনের এবং শোষণের ব্যবস্থা কোরে রেখেছেন। আমাদের দেশে যাতে বেশী শিক্ষার বিস্তার না হয় সেই চেষ্টা তাঁরা কোরেছেন। প্রকারান্তরে যাতে জনসাধারণের শিক্ষা হোতে না পারে সেইরূপ ব্যবস্থা তাঁরা স্কুল কলেজের ভেতর রেখেছেন। ইতিপূর্ব্বে আমার বন্ধু Mr. Satya Priya Banerjee Adult Educationএর যে statistics দিয়েছেন তা থেকে বোঝা যায় ইংরেজদের দেশে, আমেরিকায় এবং জার্ম্মাণীতে শিক্ষিত লোকের হার আর আমাদের বাংলাদেশে শিক্ষিত লোকের হারে আকাশ পাতাল ব্যবধান। এই থেকেই বোঝা যায় যে আমাদের যারা ইতিপূর্ব্বে শাসন কর্ত্তা ছিলেন তাদের ইচ্ছা ছিলনা যে আমাদের দেশের জনসাধারণ শিক্ষিত হয়।

আমি বোলতে চাই যে বর্ত্তমানে জনসাধারণের প্রতিনিধিদের দ্বারা যে গভর্ণমেণ্ট পরিচালিত হোচেছ সেই গভর্ণমেণ্টের নীতি পরিবর্তিত হওয়া প্রয়োজন। আজ যে Secondary Education Bill নিয়ে দেশে ভীষণ আন্দোলন চোলছে একথা কেহ অস্বীকার কোর্ত্তে পারে না। আমি বলি যদি বাংলাদেশের স্কুল কলেজের বেতনের হার কমান না হয় তবে যত Secondary Education Billই পাশ করিনা কেন বাংলার জনসাধারণের বিশেষ কোন উপকার হবে না। গভর্ণমেণ্ট স্কুল কলেজে যে ভাবে বেতনের হার রাখা হোয়েছে তাতে জনসাধারণ ইচ্ছা কোরলেও তাদের ছেলে মেয়েদের সেখানে পড়াতে পারে না। আমি সামান্য দু একটা হিসাব দিচ্ছি:—

রিপন ও বঙ্গবাসী স্কুলে classes V and VIএর বেতন সাড়ে তিন টাকা; classes VII and VIIIএর বেতন চার টাকা; classes IX and Xএর বেতন যথাক্রমে সাড়ে চার টাকা এবং পাঁচ টাকা। সেইখানে Hare Schoolএর classes V and VIএর বেতন চার টাকা; classes VII and VIIIএর বেতন পাঁচটাকা classes IX and Xএর বেতন ছয় টাকা। এই গেল গভর্ণমেণ্ট এবং Private Schoolএর তুলনা। এখন College Departmentএর বেতনের হার দেখুন। বঙ্গবাসী এবং রিপন কলেজের I. A. Classএর বেতন যথাক্রমে ছয় টাকা এবং সাত টাকা; Presidency Collegeএর I. A. Classএর বেতন চৌদ্দ টাকা। বঙ্গবাসী এবং রিপন কলেজের I. Sc. Classএর বেতন যথাক্রমে ছয় টাকা এবং সাত টাকা; Presidency Collegeএর I. Sc. Classএর বেতন পনের টাকা। কাজেই এর থেকে দেখা যায় যে বাংলাদেশের গরীব জনসাধারণ এরূপ উচচ হারে বেতন দিয়া তাদের ছেলেমেয়েদের উচচ শিক্ষার ব্যবস্থা কোর্ত্তে পারে না। ছেলেমেয়েদের শিক্ষার জন্য জনসাধারণের আগ্রহ অত্যন্ত বেশী কিন্তু টাকার অভাবে তারা ছেলেমেয়েদের উচচ শিক্ষার ব্যবস্থা কোর্ত্তে পারে না। অদূর ভবিষ্যতে হয়তো বাংলাদেশে প্রাথমিক শিক্ষা বিস্তার লাভ কোরবে। কিন্তু আমি বোলতে চাই যে প্রাথমিক শিক্ষা লাভ করাই আমাদের একমাত্র কাম্য নয়। আমাদের দেশের জনসাধারণের উচচ শিক্ষারও প্রয়োজন আছে। শুধু বড়লোকের ছেলেরাই উচচ শিক্ষা লাভ কোরবে আর গরীব জনসাধারণের ছেলেরা উচচশিক্ষা লাভ কোর্বে না একথা কিছুতেই হোতে পারেনা। আমি অনুরোধ করি গভর্ণমেণ্ট এদিকে বিশেষ দৃষ্টি দিবেন এবং স্কুল কলেজের বেতন যাতে কমে যায় তার ব্যবস্থা কোরবেন। মন্ত্রী মহোদয় হয়ত বলবেন গরীব ছেলেদের জন্য ফ্রীর ব্যবস্থা আছে, কিন্তু তার সংখ্যা অতি নগন্য। তারপর অনেক সময় School authoritiesরা ইচ্ছা কোরলেও খুব বেশী ছাত্রকে Free studentship দিতে পারেন না। এতেও নাকি আইনের বাধা আছে। একটা Private schoolএর খবর আমি জানি। সেই স্কুলের মঞ্জুরীর জন্য দরখাস্ত করলে Divisional Inspector তদন্ত করতে আসেন এবং খাতা পত্র দেখে বলেন যে স্কুলে অনেক বেশী ছেলেকে ফ্রী দেওয়া হোয়েছে। এই সংখ্যা না কমালে স্কুলের মঞ্জুরী দেওয়া সম্ভব না। আমি মাননীয় মন্ত্রী সাহেবকে অনুরোধ করি এরূপ যদি কোন আইন থাকে তাহোলে সে আইন উঠিয়ে দিন। এই সম্পর্কে আমি আর বেশী কিছু বোলতে চাইনা। আমার প্রস্তাব অতি সাধারণ প্রস্তাব, এবং আশা

করি মাননীয় মন্ত্রী সাহেব এ প্রস্তাব গ্রহণ কোরবেন। এই প্রস্তাবের দ্বারা শিক্ষামন্ত্রী সাহেবের প্রতি আমার বিন্দু মাত্র শ্রদ্ধার লাঘবের ইচ্ছা নাই বা তাঁহার প্রতি আমার কোন allegation দেওয়ার ইচ্ছা নাই। আমি কেবল চাই যাহাতে বাংলার গরীব কৃষক ও জনসাধারণের ছেলেরা উচ্চশিক্ষা পেতে পারে সেইদিকে গভর্ণমেণ্টের মনোযোগ আকর্ষণ কোরতে এবং তার ব্যবস্থা করতে । তারপর Matriculation, I.A., B. A., প্রভৃতি পরীক্ষার উচ্চ ফিসের দিকেও গভর্ণমেণ্টের দৃষ্টি আকর্ষণ কোরছি। অনেক সময়ে ছেলেরা স্কুল কলেজের মাহিনা অতি কষ্টে যোগাড় করেও শেষ কালে fee-এর অভাবে পরীক্ষা দিতে পারে না। আমি আবার বোলছি আমার এই প্রস্তাব অতি সাধু প্রস্তাব হিসাবে গ্রহণ করে বাংলার কোটি কোটি গরীব ছাত্রের উচ্চ শিক্ষার ব্যবস্থা করুণ, তখন ফ্রেকেণ্ডারী এডুকেশন বিল পাশ করার সার্থকতা হবে।

The Hon'ble Mr. TAMIZUDDIN KHAN: Mr. Speaker, Sir, I will say only a few words about adult education. At the outset I would like to say that Government attaches very great importance to adult education—as much importance as any other member of this House attaches to it. Mr. Banerji in the course of his speech has said that this Government has not done anything, whereas some other Provincial Governments have done a good deal. Sir, distance always lends enchantment to the view. If you go to another province, probably you will hear that what Bengal is doing is not being done there. Sir, it is not a fact that Bengal has done nothing regarding adult education. Even now a large number of night schools—as many as 10,000—are functioning and 150,000 adults are receiving education in these schools. And I think, Sir, that when statistics are taken, it will be found that the percentage of illiteracy in Bengal is less than that of any other province in India. But, Sir, I would like to admit that I am not satisfied with what little we have hitherto been able to do in the matter. The problem is a very big one. It is a problem which requires not only a large amount of money but also a good deal of courage to tackle it; and I can tell the House that we have a very comprehensive scheme under examination. Khan Bahadur Muhammed Ali suggested that an amount of 5 lakhs of rupees should be set apart to be administered by a Board for the purpose of adult education. I think, Sir, that that amount of money is not really sufficient for a problem like this. The Government scheme that is under consideration not only provides that large sums should be contributed by Government, but also expects that the District Boards of Bengal, of one of which Khan Bahadur Mohammed Ali is the Chairman, and other local bodies will also share a part of the burden and if that scheme materialises, I hope, Sir, that in the course of ten years at least 75 per cent. of the illiterate adults in Bengal will be made literate.

Then, Sir, Mr. Banerji has suggested that the present Adult Education Committee should be liquidated and a new committee should be

appointed to go into the whole question of adult education. I think that will be a dilatory step. The present Adult Education Committee has almost completed its labours and its report is expected to be out very soon. Therefore, it will be, as I have already said, a dilatory process if another committee is appointed to enquire into the same matter. The suggestion that Khan Bahadur Mohammed Ali has given will receive the sympathetic consideration of the Government, and if his suggestion can be tagged on to the scheme it will be done. With these few words, Sir, I oppose the motion.

The Hon'ble Mr. A. K. FAZLUL HUQ: Sir, I will have the frankness to admit that the matter to which my friend, Mr. Giasuddin Ahmed, has referred is a matter of sore complaint from all sections of the people. The rate of fees in Government institutions and Government-aided institutions is certainly very high and, personally, I feel that it is much higher than what the people can bear. Bengal is the only province where educational institutions are mainly maintained by incomes from fees, and it is to be regretted that this state of affairs has been allowed to function and that we have not been able to give any relief. We are now concerned with Government and Government-aided institutions. As regards Government High Schools, we have got a rule that two-thirds approximately of the cost of upkeep has to be met from the provincial revenues. So, if the minimum rate of fees is reduced, then the charge on the provincial revenues will be increased. Already the cost of education per head is very high, and it will be higher still. Therefore, there is this difficulty In the case of aided schools Government have prescribed certain minimum rates, but the rates actually charged in different schools are generally higher than the minimum rates. This was done with the general concurrence of the school authorities, in view of the fact that the improvement of the financial position of non-Government schools was and still is an obvious necessity. But in view of the economic depression, reduction in these rates is actually being followed by the Inspectors of Schools where circumstances justify it. In the case of individual schools, the Director of Public Instruction has been allowed to make some reduction in the prescribed minimum rates where specially necessary, but few are the cases in which the schools have asked for any reduction in the rates of fees. These are of course matters of departmental consideration, and I can say in this connection that I would welcome the day when we would be able to declare that some relief could be given to the people of the province by a reduction in the rate of fees in Government schools and colleges and also aided schools and colleges. As regards other schools, Sir, I hope, if the Secondary Education Board is established, it will receive sufficient financial assistance from Government to enable it to render financial help to schools so that they may

be able to reduce their rates of fees. As regards Government colleges and schools endeavours are being made, but in our present financial condition there is hardly any prospect to do anything in this direction; but nonetheless I not only sympathise with the views expressed by Mr. Giasuddin Ahmed, but I also admit that his speech is well reasoned, and that it is our duty to see that a better state of things is ushered in.

With these observations, Sir, I would ask the honourable member to withdraw his motion, but if he does not, I shall have to oppose it.

As regards the other cut motion, Sir, I oppose it.

As regards the question of Madrassahs raised by my friend, Maulana Abdul Aziz, I may inform him that the Madrassah Committee has submitted its report which is now being considered. The Maulana Sahib knows too well that we are all very anxious to see that something is done in order to improve the condition of our Madrassahs.

The motion of Mr Satyapriya Banerji that the demand of Rs. 1,68,74,000 for expenditure under the head "37—Education—General" be reduced by Rs 100 was then put and lost.

The motion of Mr Giasuddin Ahmed that the demand of Rs 1,68,74,000 for expenditure under the head "37—Education—General" be reduced by Rs 100 was then put and lost.

The motion of the Hon'ble Mr A. K. Fazlul Huq that a sum of Rs. 1,68,74,000 be granted for expenditure under the head "37—Education—General" was then put and agreed to.

(At this stage the House was adjourned for twenty minutes.)

(After adjournment.)

28—Jails and Convict Settlements.

The Hon'ble Sir BIJOY PRASAD SINGH ROY: Sir, on the recommendation of His Excellency the Governor I beg to move that a sum of Rs. 36,94,000 be granted for expenditure under the head "28—Jails and Convict Settlements."

Sir, as the time at the disposal of the House is short, I do not wish to curtail the opportunities which members may enjoy of making valuable contribution to the debate by offering their criticism to the jail administration of Government. Our position is that while we recognise that wide scope for improvements exists we are restricted within the limited finances available for such improvements and other more urgent items naturally get priority over jail improvements. There were small provisions in the budget for some schemes, and I would like to say that Government could carry out all these schemes for which money was provided in the current year's budget.

Sir, for next year we have provided funds in the budget which we are asking the House to allot for a very few only of the measures which we should like to put through. Our two building schemes are essential to relieve what has now become a chronic congestion in sub-jails in Basirhat and Chandpur. Other new measures are small schemes. We are asking for provision to enable us to apply to the Barisal Jail the principle which we have adopted and which has already been extended elsewhere for giving jails with a population of 300 or more a full-time Superintendent, and since we have found in sub-jails the Subdivisional Officer, who is the Superintendent and Sub-Assistant Surgeon, who is the Deputy Superintendent, cannot be expected to devote enough attention to their jail duties, we are proposing to appoint sub-jailors in 9 of the bigger sub-jails. We are proposing to provide better provision and facilities for the treatment of lunatic and mentally-defective persons kept concentrated in Dum-Dum Jail and are asking for a small sum for this purpose. We also propose at a very small recurring cost to remove the difference between diet in sub-jails and in jails by bringing them up to the same standard as in district jails. There is a small provision asked for expenditure on sports in the reformatory and industrial schools.

With these few words, Sir, I commend my motion to the acceptance of the House

Sir, I regret to say that some other urgent duty will not enable me to reply to the cut motions and my honourable colleague the Finance Minister will reply to the cut motions with your permission.

Mr. CHARU CHANDRA ROY: Mr. Speaker, Sir, I beg to move that the demand for Rs. 36,94,000 for expenditure under the head "28—Jails and Convict Settlements" be reduced by Rs. 100.

Mr. Speaker, Sir, আমি এই motionএর সম্বন্ধে বলবার পূর্ব্বে একটা মন্তব্য কোর্ত্তে চাই যে গেল দিন যখন এই বিষয় নিয়ে কথা হোয়েছিল তখন গভর্ণমেণ্ট পক্ষীয় মেম্বাররা যে প্রকার মানসিক বিকৃতির পরিচয় দিয়েছিলেন সেকথা আলোচনা না করাই ভাল। যখন তাঁরা বিবেক বুদ্ধি, আত্মসম্মান সমস্তই বিক্রয় করেছেন তখন তাঁরা স্বাধীনতার মর্ম্ম কি করে বুঝবেন। স্বাধীনতা প্রয়াসী যুবকবৃন্দের আত্মত্যাগের পেছনে যে কি প্রেরণা আছে তা তাঁদের বোঝবার ক্ষমতা নেই। এই সমস্ত লোকদের সম্বন্ধে যতকিছু না বলা যায় ততই ভাল।

আজ এই motionটা move করবার প্রাক্কালে বিষয়টিকে দুইভাগে ভাগ কোরে নিতে চাই। (১) যারা বিচারের পর কারাগৃহে নিক্ষিপ্ত হোয়েছে, (২) যারা বিনা বিচারে আটক আছে। সেদিন মাননীয় স্বরাষ্ট্র সচিব মহাশয় এক প্রশ্নের উত্তরে বোলেছিলেন যে সব বন্দী আছেন তাদের মধ্যে two-third বন্দী division IIIতে আছেন, ৬৪ জন division IIতে আছেন আর ১০ জন division Iএ

আছেন। মাননীয় স্পীকার মহোদয়, আমি এই নিবেদন করি যাদের আশাআকাঙ্খা পর্ব্বতের সমান, দেশকে যারা পরাধীনতাশৃঙ্খল হোতে মুক্ত করার জন্য চেষ্টা কোরেছে, সেই সব দেশপ্রান ব্যক্তিদের সাধারণ কয়েদীর মত class III করার একমাত্র কারণ প্রতিহিংসা চরিতার্থ করা ছাড়া আর কি হোতে পারে। মন্ত্রীমণ্ডলী বলেন তাঁরা জনপ্রিয়। কিন্তু দেখা যায় যে বিদেশী আমলাতন্ত্রের আমলে যেসব দেশের মুক্তিকামি যুবকবৃন্দকে বিশেষ শ্রেণী করা হোয়েছিল আজ সেই সব যুবকবৃন্দকে সাধারণ কয়েদীর শ্রেণীতে পরিণত করা হোয়েছে। যারা দেশের মুক্তির জন্য যুদ্ধে ঝাঁপিয়ে পোড়েছিল তারা সুখ-সুবিধা চায় না, তারা চায় না তাদের জন্য নানা প্রকারের আমোদ প্রমোদের ব্যবস্থা করা হউক। কিন্তু যে গভর্ণমেণ্ট জনসাধারণের গভর্ণমেণ্ট, যে গভর্ণমেণ্ট নিজেকে জনপ্রিয় বোলে দাবী করেন সেই গভর্ণমেণ্টের কি এদের প্রতি কোন কর্ত্তব্য নেই? যারা দেশের স্বাধীনতার জন্য গ্রেপ্তার হোয়ে কারাগারে নিক্ষিপ্ত হোয়েছে তারা সাধারণ কয়েদী নয়। দেশকে ভালবাসাই তাদের একমাত্র অপরাধ। Division III Prisonersরা কি ভাবে ব্যবহার পেয়ে থাকে তা আপনাদের সামনে উপস্থিত কোরছি। সেদিন আমার এক বন্ধু one-fourth chatak ঘি শুনে লাফিয়ে উঠেছিলেন আর ঠাট্টা কোরে বোলেছিলেন—না ওদের one-half seer ঘি দেওয়া দরকার। এইরূপ মনোবৃত্তি যাদের তাদের বলবার কিছুই নেই। যে প্রকার খাদ্যদ্রব্য বন্দীদের দেওয়া হয় তাহা জেল কোড থেকে বোলছি।

List of Diet for Class III Prisoners (Labouring).

Early morning meal.—Rice 2 *chataks*, salt $\frac{1}{16}$th *chatak*.

Other meals.—Rice 10 *chataks*, *dal* $2\frac{1}{2}$ *chataks*, vegetable 4 *chataks*, oil $\frac{1}{16}$th *chatak*, salt $\frac{5}{16}$th *chatak*, condiments $\frac{1}{16}$th *chatak*. (Condiment is distributed as follows—tamarind $\frac{1}{16}$th *chatak*, onion or garlic or both $\frac{1}{128}$th *chatak*, turmeric $\frac{1}{8}$th *chatak*, corriender $\frac{1}{28}$th *chatak*.)

Fuel.—Coal 6 *chataks*, firewood 10 *chataks*.

(A Coalition member: ঐ সব একত্র হোয়ে রান্না হয়।) তারপর কাপড় চোপড়ের কথা। এই সব দেশের মুক্তিকামী যুবকেরা যারা জেলে আছে তাদের ২টা কোরে কুর্ত্তা দেওয়া হয়। যাঁরা এই কুর্ত্তা দেখেছেন তাঁরা জানেন এই সব কুর্ত্তা কি চিজ। তারপর ২টা জাঙ্গিয়া, দুই খানি গামছা এবং শীতের সময় একটি blanket এর coat তাদের দেওয়া হয়। এই coat ছুঁচের মত ধারাল এবং এই কোট সুরাবার্দ্দী সাহেব তাঁর ঘোড়ার সহিসকেও দেবেন না।

The Hon'ble Mr. H. S. SUHRAWARDY: আমার ঘোড়া নেই।

Mr. CHARU CHANDRA ROY: এবং বিছানার জন্য যে কম্বল দেওয়া হয় তাও ছুঁচের মত ধারাল। খাবার জন্য তাদের একখানি কোরে এলুমিনিয়ামের থালা ও বাটি দেওয়া হয়। আজ আমার সেই বন্ধুটিকে দেখতে পাচ্ছি না যিনি সেদিন বিদ্রূপ কোরেছিলেন। হয়ত এগুলিতেও তাঁর হিংসা হবে। আজ এই সব দেশের মুক্তিকামী যুবকবৃন্দ

জনপ্রিয় মন্ত্রীমণ্ডলীর অধিনে এই অবস্থায় জেলখানায় আবদ্ধ আছে। তাদের অপরাধ তারা দেশকে ভালবাসে। আমি জিজ্ঞাসা কোর্ত্তে চাই আমাদের জনপ্রিয় মন্ত্রীমণ্ডলীকে, এখনও কি Political Prisonersদের জন্য জেল কোড সংশোধনের সময় আসে নাই? এখনও কি তারা বুঝতে পারেন নাই তারা দেশকে ভালবাসে এবং তাদের একমাত্র অপরাধ দেশকে ভালবাসা। অপরাধের তারতম্য হওয়া উচিৎ। জেল কোডে বলে যে যে classএর লোক তাকে সেইভাবে শ্রেণী ভাগ কোরে দেওয়া হয়। যে classএর লোক দেশ সেবা করে তাদের অধিকাংশই মধ্যবিত্ত ভদ্রলোকের সন্তান। আর একটা point গভর্ণমেণ্টের কাছে suggest কোরতে চাই। Division III Political Prisonersদের জন্য একটা seperate building করা হউক। অথবা জেলখানার ভেতরেই ওদের আলাদা কোরে রাখা হউক।

এই সব Political Prisonerদের সাধারণ চোর ডাকাত ও বদমায়েসদের সঙ্গে রাখা হয়। তাতে এই সব ছেলেদের নৈতিক চরিত্র নষ্ট হোতে পাবে। এ ব্যবস্থাটা গভর্ণমেণ্টের প্রতিহিংসা পরায়ণতা ছাড়া আর কিছুই নয়। তাদের খাদ্য, কাপড়-বিছানা, বাসনপত্র পরিবর্ত্তন কোরে দেওয়া হউক। আর একটি কথা—কোন জেলেও সাধারণ কয়েদিদের মশারি দেওয়া হয় না। ঢাকা ও ময়মনসিংএর মশার অত্যাচার অনেকেই জানেন। তারপর Political Prisonerদের রাত্রে পড়াশুনার ব্যবস্থা নেই। যে শ্রেণীর prisonersরা Political prisoners তাদের শারীরিক এবং মানসিক উভয়বিধ খাদ্যেরই প্রয়োজন। তারপর এই সব prisonersদের বই ও কাগজপত্র দেওয়া হয় না। Hooghly জেলের authoritiesরা অনুগ্রহ কোরে সংবাদপত্র এবং পুস্তক দিয়েছিলেন, কিন্তু জানি না কার আদেশে সেগুলি কেড়ে নেওয়া হোয়েছে। আমি অনুরোধ করি যে Political prisonerদের পুস্তক এবং সংবাদপত্র দেওয়া হউক এবং পাঠের জন্য রাত্রে আলোর ব্যবস্থা করা হউক। আর একটী কথা—রাজনৈতিক বন্দীদের সাধারণ কয়েদিরা যেমন রাত্রি শেষে ৪টায় উঠে parade করে, সেই parade থেকে রেহাই দেওয়া হউক। তাদের রান্নার ব্যবস্থা তাদের হাতে দেওয়া হউক।

Mr Speaker Sir: এতক্ষণ আমি Convicted Political prisonerদের সম্বন্ধে বোলেছিলাম। এইবার আমি security prisonersদের সম্বন্ধে কিছু বোলতে চাই। সেদিন মাননীয় সন্তোষ বাবু এ সম্বন্ধে অনেক কিছু বোলেছেন। তবুও দু একটা জিনিষ না বোললে চোলছে না। Hijli Jailএ খেলার যা ব্যবস্থা হোয়েছে তাতে সেখানে ১২৬ জনের খেলবার জন্য মাত্র ২টি বল দেওয়া হোয়েছে। তারপর তাদের musical instrument দেওয়া হোচ্ছে না। তারপর হিজলি জেলে কোনপ্রকার library নেই। মাননীয় Mr. Sarat Bose বইয়ের জন্য publicএর কাছে appeal কোরেছেন। কিন্তু এ সম্বন্ধে কি গভর্ণমেণ্টের কোন কর্ত্তব্য নেই? যাতে সেখানে একটা up-to-date library হয় তার ব্যবস্থা করা দরকার। Hijli থেকে কলিকাতা প্রায় ৭৫ মাইল। সেখানে বিনা বিচারে যেসব বন্দীদের রাখা হোয়েছে তাদের আত্মীয় স্বজনের সঙ্গে interviewএর দিন হোচ্ছে—মঙ্গলবার ও শুক্রবার। তাদের সঙ্গে দেখা কোরতে গেলে কাজের লোকসান কোরে যেতে

হবে। এই যে অতিরিক্ত শাস্তি এটা সম্পূর্ণ প্রতিহিংসামূলক। অবশ্য আমাকে রবিবারে দেখা কোর্ত্তে দেওয়া হোয়েছিল। সেইজন্য আমি Midnaporeএর Additional Superintendent of Police, D. I. B., কে ধন্যবাদ না দিয়ে পারি না। তারপর এদের পরিবারদের allowance সম্বন্ধে গভর্ণমেণ্টের কি policy বুঝতে পারি না। গভর্ণমেণ্ট কাহার reportএর উপর নির্ভর কোরে এই সব allowanceএর দরখাস্ত অগ্রাহ্য করেন জানি না। আমার মনে হয় যদি Houseএর তিনজন member নিয়ে একটা কমিটি করা হয় এবং সেই কমিটি যদি এই সব দরখাস্তগুলি scrutinise করে তাহোলে ঠিক বিচার হয়। জানি না কার reportএর উপর নির্ভর কোরে এইসব দরখাস্ত অগ্রাহ্য করা হয় তবে মনে হয় পুলিশ রিপোর্টের উপরই নির্ভর করা হয়। আমি একটি case জানি। অতীন রায়ের স্ত্রীর income দেখানো হোয়েছে ৪০৲। অথচ আমি জানি তাঁর কোন রকম income নেই। বৃদ্ধা শাশুড়ী এবং দুটি শিশু নিয়ে অতি কষ্টে তাঁর দিন চোলছে। বীরেন্দ্র চ্যাটার্জি ১২৫৲ মাইনের চাকরী কোর্ত্তেন। তাঁকে বন্দী কোরে নিয়ে যাবার পর তাঁর স্ত্রী সন্তানগণসহ প্রায় অনাহারে আছেন। তারপর অমূল্য অধিকারী—তাঁর বৃদ্ধা মা এবং স্ত্রীর কোন আয় না থাকায় অতি কষ্টে দিন যাচ্ছে। গিরীন্দ্র রায় নিয়োগীর স্ত্রী সেদিন আমাকে চিঠি লিখে জানাইয়েছেন যে যেদিন পুলিশ তাহার allowanceএর দরখাস্ত enquiry করিতে যান সেদিন কোন পুরুষ মানুষ বাড়ী না থাকায় তিনি পুলিশকে কিছু বলিতে পারেন নাই। অথচ শুনিলাম তাহার দরখাস্ত অগ্রাহ্য হইয়াছে। enquiry এই ভাবেই হয়। এরূপ বহু ব্যক্তির কথা বলা যেতে পারে। গভর্ণমেণ্ট কি রাজী আছেন Opposition Leader, Hon'ble Minister in charge of the Home Department ও কোয়ালিশন দলের একজন senior member লইয়া একটা কমিটি গঠন করিতে এই সব দরখাস্ত scrutinise করবার জন্য? তারপর জ্ঞানেন্দ্র মজুমদার মহাশয়ের ছেলেকে interview কোর্ত্তে দেওয়া হয় নাই। একমাত্র ছেলে। এই সমস্তের প্রতি আমি গভর্ণমেণ্টের দৃষ্টি আকর্ষণ কোরছি। আজ Sir Nazimuddin এখানে নেই। অবশ্য Hon'ble Mr. Suhrawardy সাহেবের কাছে থেকে মামুলি উত্তর পাব জানি। কিন্তু আজও গভর্ণমেণ্টকে বোলছি হয়তো এমন দিন আসবে যে table turn কোর্ব্বে। তখন জেলের অবস্থা কি তাঁরা মর্ম্মে মর্ম্মে বুঝবেন। দেশকে ভালবাসাই যদি অপরাধ হয় তাহোলে বাংলার প্রত্যেক হিন্দু মুসলমানই অপরাধী। মন্ত্রীরা গদিতে বোসে দেশের যুবকদের উচ্চাকাঙ্খার কথা তাঁরা বুঝতে পারছেন না। এই কথা বোলে আমি আমার motion Houseএ উপস্থিত কোরছি।

√**Mr. SYED JALALUDDIN HASHEMY:** Mr. Speaker, Sir, in rising to support Mr. Charu Chandra Roy's motion, I propose to confine my remarks to security prisoners only. Year after year we have spoken *ad nauseum*; we have offered our criticisms and made suggestions for reforming the jail administration in this province. But frankly speaking, Sir, I must confess that the sympathy we received from the honourable members in charge of jail administration under the régimé of the much-maligned bureaucratic system of the past we have failed

to receive from the Minister in charge of the so-called popular Government under our present provincial autonomy. Might I ask the Hon'ble Minister in charge to tell us wherein lies the distinction between a security prisoner and a war prisoner? Might I request the Hon'ble Minister to tell us the offence of these security prisoners? As for ourselves, we say that we do not know what is their offence nor the members of the Coalition Party can tell us the offence they have committed nor even the members to my left can claim to know the offence that the security prisoners of Bengal have committed. It might be that the all-knowing prophets of the Special Branch and the Criminal Investigation Department know what they have done. Assuming, Sir, that they intended to wage a war against the Government of India, assuming that they were preparing themselves to fight against the Government of Bengal, might I ask the Hon'ble Minister in charge to tell us what treatment is meted out to the Italian prisoners now in India and maintained at the cost of the Government of India? Might I ask the Hon'ble Minister in charge to tell us of the treatment meted out to the British internees, the British security prisoners who are now in concentration camps in England and in Canada? Might I request him to read the parliamentary proceedings from January to August, 1940, and tell us of the distinction between a security prisoner in England and a security prisoner in Bengal? It would be pertinent to ask the Hon'ble Minister in charge to tell us of the treatment that is meted out to the British prisoners at the hands of that much-hated Adolf Hitler. Sir, the more deeply I think of the system of jail administration in this province, particularly the treatment that is meted out to the security prisoners in Bengal, the more I feel inclined not to believe that we are under any civilised form of Government. Even this evening in reply to a question the Hon'ble Minister in charge of the Home Department informed us of the number of security prisoners—I mean prisoners detained in concentration camps or in jails without trial. Are not they human beings? Cannot they claim at least the same sort of treatment as the Italian prisoners who are now in India are receiving from the hands of the Government of India? Sir, with regard to the social status and education of these security prisoners of Bengal, I may tell the House that they are in no way inferior to the British prisoners and internees in England and in Canada. Sir, very recently, one of the members of the British Parliament enquired whether the Government of Canada and the Government of Australia are following the instruction issued to them with regard to the internees sent by the British Government to Canada and Australia, and I request the Hon'ble Minister in charge to read the reply given by the Minister in charge in England. The diet that is being supplied and the arrangement of amusement and excursion for the British internees in Canada and Australia cannot be imagined by this Provincial Government of Bengal.

Mr. Speaker, Sir, we only demand the bare necessities of life for the security prisoners. Those who have got experience of the dietary system in different jails in Bengal and those who have got personal experience of the diet that is supplied to the internees in concentration camps can say without any fear of contradiction that the food that is supplied to them is not worth consumption.

Sir, what was the offence of the British security prisoners and the British internees? They were supposed to be pro-Nazis. That was their offence and for that offence in one single month more or less 6,000 prisoners including men and women and including one member of Parliament were arrested, but the ordinary chivalry and the ordinary decency of treatment of human beings as human beings was not forgotten by persons in charge of the British administration in England. Cannot we expect this ordinary human courtesy from the persons who are at the helm of the administration of this province and that these security prisoners should be given an absolutely different kind of treatment from that meted out to the ordinary convicts of this province? (The Hon'ble Mr. H. S. SUHRAWARDY: They are.) Sir, I find that the Hon'ble Minister who is going to reply to this debate is not serious. (The Hon'ble Mr. H. S. SUHRAWARDY: Oh! yes, I am very serious.) We know the nature of your seriousness. (Laughter from the Opposition Benches.) (The Hon'ble Mr. H. S. SUHRAWARDY: That is different.) (Mr. ATUL CHANDRA SEN: Serio-comic!) Sir, I am not speaking about the convicted prisoners at all. The question may arise that courts established by law found them guilty, convicted them, and the District Executive or the Commissioner of Police, as the case may be, might have examined their social status and education and other things and they have been given classification by responsible men, but, Sir, with regard to security prisoners I should like to know from the Hon'ble Minister in charge wherein lies the line of demarcation between, or as I have already asked, what is the distinction between the security prisoners and the war prisoners. (The Hon'ble Mr. H. S. SUHRAWARDY: None.) If there is no line of demarcation, they should be treated as prisoners in other countries are treated. It is obvious and members of this House know very well that in this country—I mean in India—the treatment that is meted out to the prisoners is absolutely scandalous. I may mention in passing that when I had been in the Rajshahi Central Jail, one of the ideal jails in Bengal, His Excellency Sir Stanley Jackson had occasion to visit that jail. His Excellency the then Governor of Bengal, had very kindly asked me about my grievances inside the jail and the reply that I was forced to give was that the diet that was supplied to me was not worth consumption. Even hungry dogs would refuse to take it. As a result of that remark, I was transferred from that jail overnight to the Alipore Central Jail and next week I was transferred to the Midnapore Central Jail where I was confined as a solitary prisoner for long six months. Sir,

the condition has not changed even an inch under this popular Government under the Provincial Autonomy. Very few Ministers care to study the jail problems of Bengal. They cannot think of these security prisoners in better terms than the ordinary convicts who are put to jail for ordinary crimes under the Indian Penal Code. They cannot conceive that these prisoners whom we characterise as political prisoners, particularly the security prisoners who are detained for no offence of their own, can claim a humane treatment from a civilized Government. But, Sir, none of the members of the Cabinet have either the time or the occasion to consider this problem from a humanitarian point of view. Sir, I would only request the Hon'ble Minister in charge to tell us why this invidious distinction between European war prisoners, Italian war prisoners, and Indian Bengal war prisoners.

Rai HARENDRA NATH CHAUDHURI: Sir, I beg to move the motion that stands in my name, that the demand of Rs. 36,94,000 for expenditure under the head "28—Jails and Convict Settlements" be reduced by Rs. 100.

Sir, in rising to speak on the motion, I would start with lodging a protest against the improvised arrangement that has been made to conduct the debate on jails on behalf of the Government. I hope my honourable friend, Mr. Suhrawardy, will not take it amiss if I enter an emphatic protest against this last minute arrangement. Mr. Suhrawardy is undoubtedly an efficient Minister in his particular fields of activity, but how can it be expected that he is *sabjanta*, that he is acquainted with all the detailed working of all the departments, and that he is capable of answering all the points that can be raised in the discussion on all possible subjects? I think it is doing an injustice to him also to ask him to conduct the jail debate on behalf of the Government, because this debate in previous years was conducted by a Minister who had an intimate knowledge of the working of the department and at different times gave different promises, and it is now time to ask him or his successor in office how far the department has realised those promises. How can it be possible, Sir, for Mr. Suhrawardy to know what promises were given by Sir Nazimuddin in connection with the jail debate last year or what statements were made by Sir Bijoy Prasad Singh Roy in connection with the debate on the supplementary demand for jails? I would therefore enter an emphatic protest against an arrangement under which we have to address our remarks to an Hon'ble Minister who knows little of the subject under discussion.

Now, Sir, I will begin with what I have to say on this subject with a question to the Government, namely, when they will cease talking of jail reforms and do anything? Since the introduction of Provincial Autonomy, they have been talking of jail reforms. In the

first year of Provincial Autonomy they issued a long questionnaire. The second year was spent in the collection of opinions. The third year was spent in examining and completing the examination of the answers received. When, therefore, the reforms are going to be introduced nobody knows. They are considering and considering year after year the question of jail reforms only to do nothing serious or important. Sir, it was last year that I indicated certain lines on which the reforms in the administration of jails in our province should be taken up. Last year, I pointed out the lines on which reforms were effected in jail administration in England. I also pointed out the lines on which reforms were effected in some of the neighbouring provinces. The Hon'ble Sir Nazimuddin in reply gave us an assurance that the Government were considering the reforms that could be taken up here in Bengal and that very soon they would implement some of the larger reforms. But, Sir, the promised reforms are not coming. Again, last year Sir Nazimuddin in reply to my speech admitted that the library grant for the jails was very small and he further observed that my remarks would help him to provide more money in the next budget. Honourable members will please see that only the same amount that was provided on the last occasion has been repeated in the next year's budget. As regards the earning schemes that had been introduced in the jails in England, I suggested that some such scheme should be introduced in our jails also. Sir Nazimuddin's reply was, "The question is under examination, and it has got some attraction for me, but as soon as we are in a position to evolve a satisfactory scheme, effect will be given to it." I do not know whether it has as much attraction for my friend Mr. Suhrawardy. (The Hon'ble Mr. H. S. SUHRAWARDY: And more.) If so, I wish to know definitely in reply what schemes have been evolved by the Government here in the very last year of the charge to introduce any system of wages in the Bengal jails? Up to date not one reform and surely not one of any importance has been introduced in jail diet. The extremely meagre quantity of fish necessitates much use of *dal* which again leads to the bowel troubles of the prisoners. Anybody who has to do the duties of a Jail Visitor must be aware of the fact that next to malarial fever dysentery is responsible for the largest number of hospital cases in jails and yet, Sir, no attempt is made to reform the jail diet. The number of admissions to jail hospitals due to dysentery has gone up from 1,136 in 1937 to 1,324 in 1939 and yet no attempt is being made or will be made by the popular Government to reform the jail diet. I am sure that the Hon'ble Mr. Suhrawardy will tell us that everything has been or will be done and that prisoners are gaining in weight, but I shall come to the weight question later. The Acting Minister in charge of Jails said the other day, in reply to my speech on the supplementary demand for jails, that the dietary charges were highest per capita in Bengal.

This is an ill-informed and incorrect statement. (The Hon'ble Mr. H. S. SUHRAWARDY: It has been worked out mathematically.) It may have been worked out mathematically by figures cooked up by a Special Committee of this Government but, Sir, that is not a fact. You will find it disproved if you refer to the Statistical Abstract published under the authority of the Government of India. It will show that of the three provinces Bombay, Madras and Bengal, the average cost of diet per head of the jail population is the lowest in Bengal. In Bombay, it is Rs. 42·69, in Madras it is Rs. 40·9 and in Bengal it is Rs. 39·50. That was in 1937, I must admit, and it is for that year that comparative statistics are available.

Now, Sir, one may think that the dietary charges have subsequently increased, and the prisoner's diet has improved, but that is not a fact. It cannot be said that the dietary charges have so increased as to improve the prisoner's diet. If the dietary charge has at all increased it has increased not to give any better amenity to the prisoners, but has increased for other reasons. And what are the reasons? The Jail Administration Report of 1939 shows that the average cost of dietary charge was Rs. 42-14 in 1939 as against Rs. 41-13 in 1938. It was explained in the report that "the increase was due to higher rates of price of food-grains and lesser garden produce." In other words, although more garden produce had to be purchased and higher prices had to be paid for food-grains owing to the war, the cost per head per month increased only from Rs. 3-7-9 to Rs. 3-9-2, that is, by 1 anna 5 pies per head per month. This can only mean that the quality of diet, if not the quantity, must have suffered a great deal, and economy is being observed at the expense of the unfortunate prisoners when, Sir, the budget provides dearness allowance for the officers of the Government. I shall be the last person to speak here in sentimental strains on the subject of jails. Sentiments are sacred things and, Sir, I think, they ought not to be expressed in places where they are not likely to be reciprocated. I would, therefore, refer to figures again. Inadequate dietary charge, Sir, is reflected in the lesser weight gained by the prisoners in Bengal. On the last occasion the Hon'ble Khwaja Sir Nazimuddin made much of the weight gained by the prisoners in our jails when replying to my cut motion on the subject. I interrupted him in the midst of his speech and enquired how many had gained in weight. Sir Nazimuddin replied, "a majority." I at once contradicted him and said, "Not a majority." It is unfortunate, Sir, that he could say so as the Minister in charge of the Jail Department. You will find from the comparative statistics of the different provinces of India that in 1937, of the total 23,170 prisoners released in Madras 14,640 gained in weight; that is, the percentage of prisoners that gained in weight was 63·1 in Madras. In Bombay, of the 16,004 prisoners released, 9,376, *i.e.*, 58·5 per cent., gained in weight. In the United Provinces,

of the 38,897 prisoners released as many as 19,594, *i.e.*, 59·5 per cent., gained in weight. But in Bengal, of 48,234 prisoners released 22,851 prisoners gained in weight, *i.e.*, only 47·3 per cent. Thus, Sir, the theory of majority of prisoners gaining in weight here in Bengal stands exposed.

Sir, I will now refer to the inadequate charges, *i.e.*, provision for clothing. Sir, in the latest report available, that is, in the report for 1939, we find that clothing charges of the prisoners have gone down from Rs. 5 per head to Rs. 4-5 per head. The decrease was, as explained, due to the enforcement of strict economy. Sir, the other day I enquired by a question whether Division II prisoners could not be given even 4 wearing pieces so that they might wear 2 of them and send the other 2 to the washerman. What reply was obtained I shall not give you forthwith, but when Division II prisoners, not Division III prisoners, Sir, who are recognised as *bhadralog*, and educated persons coming from the higher ranks of society are not given even 4 wearing pieces in jail, our jail administration is enforcing strict economy in the matter of clothing and proving to the world that this Government stands for jail reform.

The Hon'ble Mr. H. S. SUHRAWARDY: You say that Division II prisoners are not given 4 wearing pieces?

Rai HARENDRA NATH CHAUDHURI: Yes, I say so, and I repeat it. Division II prisoners and Division IA prisoners are not given 4 pieces, but are given only 3 wearing pieces.

Coming to the hospital charges, we find that hospital charges instead of going up are going down. Hospital charges have gone down from Rs. 8-14 per head in 1938 to Rs. 8-12 in 1939, though the price of medicines went up since the outbreak of the war. Even in the treatment of the prisoners in hospitals economy is being observed instead of reforms being introduced. There are certain items appearing in the budget regarding jail buildings and all that, but I know that a building scheme was put forward from the Dum-Dum Central Jail for segregation of prisoners suffering from tuberculosis, but where is the provision for the segregation of these tubercular prisoners in the "Jail" budget? Last year I tried to convince the Hon'ble Minister in charge of Jails that immediate arrangement should be made to segregate prisoners suffering from tuberculosis in the Dum-Dum Central Jail Hospital and accommodate them in a separate ward. In Bengal there are only two jail establishments, one in Suri and another in Comilla, for the treatment of convicted prisoners suffering from tuberculosis. But, Sir, those jails are already overcrowded and are slow to receive prisoners from other jails. Therefore, seeing the congestion of prisoners suffering from tuberculosis in

the Dum-Dum Central Jail, I proposed last year that immediate arrangement should be made to construct a separate block so that other prisoners may not be infected.

(At this stage the blue light was lit.)

Sir, I would request you to give me five minutes more.

Mr. SPEAKER: All right.

Rai HARENDRA NATH CHAUDHURI: I know, Sir, that last autumn the plan and the estimate for such a separate block were sent from the Dum-Dum Central Jail to the higher jail authorities with a view to secure the segregation of tubercular prisoners, but no sum has been provided in this budget for the constructon of the block.

Sir, I will now pass on to the question of the revision of the Jail Code. It is urgently necessary, Sir, to revise the Jail Code when such answers as have been given to one of my recent questions can easily be given to questions put by us. In the current session of the Assembly, I put the following question. I am quoting the question here in part:—

(*a*) Is the Hon'ble Minister in charge of the Home Department aware that the prisoners convicted under the Defence of India Rules and confined in Dum-Dum Central Jail—

(1) are not permitted to alter their menu even within the prescribed limit of dietary charges or to observe all the *ekadashies;*

(2) are not allowed even four *dhoties* or wearing pieces with the result that they cannot use a pair when the other goes to the washerman;

(3) are not supplied with books which well-educated people can read with profit or permitted to use such books at their own cost;

(4) are not permitted to subscribe nationalist newspapers and periodicals even at their own cost;

(5) are not allowed to use and retain more than one exercise book for their notes and writings;

(6) are not allowed smoking facilities at their own expense; and

(7) are not supplied with cards but only *golakdham*, etc., suitable for indoor recreation of certain classes of people?

My question proceeded:—

(*b*) If the answer is in the affirmative, will the Hon'ble Minister be pleased to state what action, if any, he proposes to take for the removal of their grievances.

(c) If no action is proposed to be taken, will the Hon'ble Minister be pleased to state the reasons thereof?

The Acting Minister for Jails Sir Bijoy Prasad Singh Roy answered with reference to part (a) of the question thus:—

> I am making enquiries into the facts referred to in the honourable member's question.

Then in reply to (b) and (c) there was a large promise here; he said—

> I will take appropriate measures if I find that any rules or orders have been contravened.

Just notice, Sir, that if only rules and orders have been contravened, he will take certain steps, otherwise he will not, even to remedy these very legitimate grievances such as want of four wearing pieces or supply of books and newspapers at their, i.e., the prisoners' own cost! Sir, if there are such nonsensical rules in the Jail Code as stand in the way of removal of legitimate grievances, the Jail Code surely demands immediate revision.

Sir, I shall conclude only by referring to the reforms that were introduced in the United Provinces Jails two years ago. I referred last year to the reforms introduced in Orissa and Central Provinces Jail administrations I will now refer to the reforms introduced in United Provinces in the third year of Provincial Autonomy. I am quoting here from the budget speech of the then Hon'ble Premier of the Government of the United Provinces, the last budget speech that was delivered by Pandit Govinda Ballav Pant. Pandit Pant said: "The Government has given special attention to the question of jail reforms. The method of classification of prisoners has been revised." (Mr. M. SHAMSUDDIN AHMED: It is because they went to jail. These fellows never did.) "The system of jail industries is being remodelled and the Director of Jail Industries has been appointed and the system of paying wages to prisoners is going to be tried. Rs 17,000 are being provided for adult education and libraries in jails"—not Rs. 1,000 or Rs. 1,800—"Rs. 28,000 for the supply of tobacco at Government cost" —not supply of tobacco at the cost of the prisoners—"Rs. 4,000 for radio sets for juvenile T. B. and Third Class prisoners in jails and Rs. 1,000 for placards and mottoes. A number of primitive methods of jail punishment have been done away with. Prisoners are no longer used for drawing water or pressing oil or for any other humiliating task. Modifications have been made in the diet, clothing and bedding of prisoners. Additional provision has been made for allowing morning meals to under-trial and non-labour prisoners and for granting facilities to those observing fast."

Sir, if here in Bengal we ask for such reforms the Hon'ble Minister stands up and says, "Well, these things can be done only if jail rules permit." Bnt what a foolish answer, Sir. If existing jail rules do not permit them, why retain such foolish or archaic jail rules? Why not have them changed as early as possible? I think our Government should stand by their promise of reforms and arrange to revise the Jail Code if they mean business. Let them introduce reforms even in the last year of their charge.

Mr. SASANKA SEKHAR SANYAL: Mr. Speaker, will you kindly allow another speech from this side?

Mr. SPEAKER: I am sorry that is not possible. There are still two motions.

Mr. Suhrawardy, how long will you take for your speech?

The Hon'ble Mr. H. S. SUHRAWARDY: Once I begin to talk I can't say how long I shall take; it will be about 20 minutes.

Mr. SASANKA SEKHAR SANYAL: Sir, before he proceeds to reply to this question, there is just one matter which I will place before the House and the Minister to consider. Sir, I am telling the House in onnection with a matter which I came across only on Sunday. I had been to my district, and I went to the Berhampore Jail and there I found a very rare thing, namely, an ordinary convict, a convict under section 109 of the Criminal Procedure Code, going on hunger-strike He had been to the hospital, but as a protest against the hospital diet and as a protest against the ordinary diet in the jail he went on hunger-strike.

There is one other very serious matter, Sir, which ought to be considered by the Government immediately, I mean, regarding mosquito nuisance. In the Berhampore Jail there are about 100 prisoners. There each and every one of the prisoners showed signs of mosquito bites all over the body, and some of the political prisoners were suffering from indigestion owing to loss of appetite due to want of sleep. It is curious that the jail rules permit a man to be taken to the hospital and mosquito-net to be provided there, but I do not understand why the Government does not see the necessity of prevention better than cure. Before they are sent to the hospital mosquito curtains may be furnished. Even people from outside are ready to furnish these curtains. I do not know why there is this objection on the part of the Government, and I hope the Hon'ble Minister who is just in charge of the department will consult the Secretary and find a way out of this difficulty. Because you know, Sir, even in our cattle shed we furnish fireplace to our cows and to our buffaloes so that they may be protected from mosquito bite. Are we going to treat our prisoners as worse than cattle? That is the question.

The Hon'ble Mr. H. S. SUHRAWARDY: I am indeed sorry, Sir, that Sir Nazimuddin is not present amongst us to give a fitting reply to the various statements made by the honourable members opposite. I do not pretend to be able to take his place in any manner which may be considered to be satisfactory. In his absence, Sir, the task has devolved upon me. Rai Harendra Nath Chaudhuri states that I am not a *subjunta*, as he calls it. I may reply to many things, but he cannot conceive how I can reply to almost everything. If I may just reply to Rai Harendra Nath Chaudhuri himself, there is hardly a debate on any single matter which he misses and that he does not speak on (Rai HARENDRA NATH CHAUDHURI: Question.) and I think that if Rai Harendra Nath Chaudhuri is the omnibus speaker of the Opposition, there may be a counterpart in the Ministerial Benches. (Laughter.)

Sir, I will deal first with the points raised by Mr. Charu Chandra Roy. He suggests that a difference in treatment ought to be made in the case of those prisoners who have gone to jail as a punishment for pursuing their ideal of liberty. He referred in this connection not to security prisoners or to prisoners under the Defence of India Rules, but those who have been tried by a court of law and have been convicted. Sir, we have sympathy for them; we have admiration for their ideals; but I must confess to a feeling, Sir, that their love for the country, their spirit of self-sacrifice can be devoted to more constructive work rather than along the path of crime.

Mr. M. SHAMSUDDIN AHMED: What is their crime?

The Hon'ble Mr. H. S. SUHRAWARDY: The crime for which they are convicted by a court of law, a crime under the Indian Penal Code. (Rai HARENDRA NATH CHAUDHURI: Security prisoners are not convicted.) I am talking of convicted prisoners and Mr. Roy was also referring to convicted prisoners, and I think that if the leaders of the country, those who have influence over them and particularly my friends opposite, direct their activities along proper channels, these troubles would neither arise for them nor for us. (Mr. SANTOSH KUMAR BASU: And no jail reform would be necessary!) Mr. Jalaluddin Hashemy asks: What is the difference between security and war prisoners, and why should they be treated differently from the Italian prisoners of war? A very fateful admission that the security prisoners are enemies of India as the Italian prisoners are! I will just refer to him how such prisoners might be treated by Herr Adolf Hitler. If somebody in that country gets up and speaks against the constitution, he will be shot. There will be no question of mosquito curtains in his case or of four *dhotis* or of three *dhotis* or of libraries or of indoor games. (A voice from the Congress Benches: What was all that to you?) A British prisoner of war will be treated with consideration

according to the canons of International Law. (A voice from the Krishak Proja Party: Because they are white men!) No, Sir. It is not on that account. Indian prisoners of war would, I take it, be treated in terms of International Law. There is a difference between those who while living in the country tread the path of revolution, mass revolution if you like, or revolution with violence or non-violent revolution—there is a difference between them—and those who wage war from outside. I do not think that it is necessary to stress this point.

Now, Sir, to come back to Mr. Charu Chandra Roy's criticisms with regard to food, Rai Harendra Nath Chaudhuri has attempted to controvert the point that we spend more money on our prisoners than other provinces do. (Rai HARENDRA NATH CHAUDHURI: Per capita.) Yes, Sir, per capita. He has referred to certain figures, but I wish he had referred to all of them. For instance, he says that whereas in 1937 we spent Rs. 39-8, in 1938 Rs. 41-13 and in 1939 Rs. 42-14, this increase signifies nothing inasmuch as the increase was due to the rise in the price of foodstuffs and due to the fact that we had to purchase vegetables as the vegetable gardens attached to the jails did not produce sufficient quantities. Now, Sir, this brings home one point that the figure of Rs. 39-8 or Rs. 41-13 for the year 1937 or 1938 also signifies little because to this has to be added the cost of the vegetables produced in the gardens which was eliminated from calculations. (Rai HARENDRA NATH CHAUDHURI: That is done everywhere.) Now the point on which Rai Harendra Nath Chaudhuri started was that of comparison. The question being that of comparison, I will give him comparative figures. In 1936 our costs were higher than those of any other provinces. (Rai HARENDRA NATH CHAUDHURI: According to what?) According to the Government of India figures, the figures on which my friend relies, the figures which I have in my hand. In 1937, our cost of Rs. 39-8 was higher than that of the North-West Frontier Province, of the Punjab, of the United Provinces, of Bihar, of Orissa, of the Central Provinces, of Sind and of Assam, and it was short by a few rupees of Bombay and of Madras. In 1938 when we spent Rs. 41-13, our figures were higher than those of all provinces except Madras. (Rai HARENDRA NATH CHAUDHURI: Compare the figures of Bengal with those of major provinces.) I am not concealing anything. Don't worry! These are figures you did not compare. You only compared the figures of 1938-39, and I am comparing the figures of all the provinces. In 1939 our figures were higher than those of all the provinces except Bihar and Bombay. These figures speak for themselves.

I now come to the point with regard to increases in weight. I accept the figures of my honourable friend, but if 47 per cent. or nearly half show an increase in weight, it does not show bad dietary. So far as we have taken official and non-official opinion—this has been stated

on the floor of this House before—they have all agreed that the dietary is not insufficient. But I think that these matters are always capable of further consideration and further overhauling, and I take it that as time passes and as more and more urgent requirements and reforms are taken up by us and are finished, we shall be able to take up other matters as well because there can be no doubt, as I shall prove to this House, that the question of reform of jails has been seriously taken up by Government. We have not in such a succinct speech as that delivered by the late Prime Minister of the United Provinces placed our case, but I think as I will go on unfolding what we have done—I don't think I shall have time to complete the entire catalogue—it will give some indication to honourable members that we are devoting considerable attention to jail reform.

Now, in the case of clothes—I am talking of Division III prisoners—we are giving one pair of trousers, that is, in addition.

Rai HARENDRA NATH CHAUDHURI: Now?

The Hon'ble Mr. H. S. SUHRAWARDY: Yes, now. To non-Muslim prisoners. We are also giving blanket *kurtas* with lining and a cotton bed-sheet.

Regarding the proposal that the non-habitual criminals should live separate from habitual criminals, that is in the Jail Code and whenever possible, habitual and non-habitual criminals are separated—and kept in separate wards.

Now, Sir, I am sorry regarding mosquito curtains. Mosquito curtains are a problem which we have attempted to handle and which we find is beyond our resources. Division I and Division II prisoners, for whom most of my honourable friends opposite plead with such force and vigour (Mr. CHARU CHANDRA ROY: For all.) are allowed mosquito curtains at Government cost. In the case of Division III prisoners, mosquito curtains are allowed in hospitals and to those suffering from malaria. Now mosquitoes are known to bite irrespective of places, and I believe that even in this city there are many poor people who are bitten from head to foot by mosquitos and who cannot afford mosquito curtains. (A voice from Congress Benches: Many people also die.) Nevertheless, Sir, we are considering the question whether we cannot provide the prisoners with some kind of mosquito-proof barracks with exhaust fans. But obviously, Sir, this means considerable cost and further organization. We are now considering this question.

Now, Sir regarding exercise, arrangements have been made for physical exercise and, as the honourable members know, games like Hindusthani ball, net ball, volley ball, *kapati*, *dariabandha*, etc., are allowed, and at the annual sports prizes are distributed to the winners.

They are also given physical drill every morning alternating with *bratachari* and so on. (A cry of, "As well as *tatti* parade" from the Opposition Block.) I think there is nothing to laugh at; they are quite happy about it, and I see no reason why my friends should complain because we have given them certain facilities for physical exercise.

I shall now come to security prisoners. I suppose one football for 146 prisoners does appear to be a very small attempt, and this question can certainly be considered. But, Sir, most of the other items have been met. For instance, let me tell you some of the facilities given. Regarding food, we are considering the question, and I think my friends will probably be relieved to hear that orders have been passed that within the dietary amount the prisoners will be given permission to arrange their own diet. And this facility will be given to all the prisoners of this type. We have also increased the ration of fish to two *chataks*. So, there will be less *dal* and less dysentery; but I do not think that *dal* and dysentery go together, because many persons get dysentery without taking *dal*. As regards musical instruments, they have been given permission to have their own musical instruments. As regards libraries, for which we have allotted one thousand rupees, we welcome the appeal of the Honourable the Leader of the Opposition, and I hope, Sir, that gentlemen who feel for these prisoners will provide them with the requisite books. They have, however, been permitted to take out books from the Imperial Library if they so desire. In the case of interviews, I think this question may be further considered. I see there is some force in the contention that so far as interviews are concerned, Sundays might be arranged in order to give facilities to those who otherwise might have to lose a day there. Then, Sir, there is the supply of newspapers. The following papers which my friends call nationalist papers, namely, *Amrita Bazar Patrika*, *Hindusthan Standard*, *Jugantar*, *Ananda Bazar Patrika* and *Advance*—and I do not think anything has been left out—can be supplied to them if they so desire. They are included now in our list of papers. Then, Sir, certain further individual instances have been given by the honourable member Mr. Roy He controverts the statement regarding a certain lady. We have information that she earns Rs. 40 per month, but the honourable member says that it is not so. This is a case that we shall further enquire into, and certainly if it is found that the honourable member's statement is correct and that the information conveyed to Government was not correct, this matter will be enquired into as to why information of this type was given to Government. And some good may come out of this enquiry for the future. We have, I know, certain principles before us which we intend to follow; we have laid them down, and we do not swerve from those principles. But at the same time we would certainly like that in the application of these

principles true facts should be placed before Government. This very incident that my honourable friend has raised will be the subject-matter of a further enquiry.

Now, Sir, about the appointment of a representative committee as suggested by the honourable member, that is a matter that I do not think can be entertained at present. I do not think, Sir, it will lead to harmonious working if such a committee, as proposed by my honourable friend, is constituted at this stage. Obviously, honourable members will recognise that this is a matter of major importance on which a decision cannot be given on the floor of the House and, possibly, could not have been given even by the Hon'ble Khwaja Sir Nazimuddin if he had been present here to-day.

If my honourable friend thinks that these prisoners should be given financial help, that is a matter that has been disposed of, but if he thinks that the information at our disposal is incorrect, that is a matter which may be further enquired into. As regards that, Sir, honourable members can always get information by asking questions.

As regards tuberculosis patients in jails, I may say that we are considering the question not merely of having separate wards, but of setting aside altogether a different jail for them so that we will be able to give them proper treatment. Such highly technical treatment as is required in the case of a tuberculosis patient may not always be available in every jail.

I hope the honourable members will be satisfied with what we have done so far, and I may state in passing, very quickly, just a few items that we have taken up. The first item is the construction of four new work-sheds——

Rai HARENDRA NATH CHAUDHURI: We know them. They have appeared in the *Bengal Weekly*.

The Hon'ble Mr. H. S. SUHRAWARDY: If that be so, why does not my friend refer to our *communiques* which will show to the House what are the steps we have taken? He will refer to the statement made by the Premier of the United Provinces as to what is going to do and what he has done there, but he will not refer to our *communiques* in which are set out the various reforms that have been taken up by us. On the other hand, the honourable member will state categorically on the floor of the House that nothing whatsoever has been done by this Government. And now when I wish to give a catalogue of what has been done by us, the honourable member says, "Oh! that has already appeared."

We have also taken up the question of adult education, and that is a very important matter. We are also revising our Code regarding the *ghanis*; and here we have already done something. We are also

reorganizing jail industries, and there is a committee of enquiry sitting for the purpose, and we must await the conclusions of that committee of enquiry. We have revised the scales of diet in subsidiary jails, and this year we have made provision in the budget with a view to bring the scales of diet on par with the scales for district jails. Then, Sir, we propose to concentrate our lunatics and mentally-defective prisoners in the Dum-Dum Central Jail for better treatment. There are many other proposals which we are holding over for want of funds. If the Bill which I have in another capacity sponsored on the floor of this House be passed into law, we will have more money to spend, and I hope the honourable members will permit me to classify the expenditure on jails as one of the expenditures on nation-building departments.

I hope, Sir, the honourable members are satisfied with the steps we have taken in the matter of jail reforms.

The motion of Mr. Charu Chandra Roy that the demand of Rs. 36,94,000 for expenditure under the head "28—Jails and Convict Settlements" be reduced by Rs. 100 was then put and a division taken with the following result:—

AYES—36.

Abdul Wahed, Maulvi.
Abul Fazl, Mr. Md.
Banerji, Mr. Satya Priya.
Barma, Babu Premhari.
Basu, Mr. Santosh Kumar.
Biswas, Mr. Surendra Nath.
Bose, Mr. Sarat Chandra.
Chakrabarty, Mr. Jatindra Nath.
Chaudhuri, Rai Harendra Nath.
Das Gupta, Babu Khagendra Nath.
Dutta Gupta, Miss Mira.
Dutta Mazumdar, Mr. Niharendu.
Emdadul Haque, Kazi.
Ghose, Mr. Atul Krishna.
Giasuddin Ahmed, Mr.
Goswami, Mr. Tulsi Chandra.
Hasan Ali Chowdhury, Mr. Syed.
Jalaluddin Hashemy, Mr. Syed.
Jonab Ali Majumdar, Maulvi.
Kumar, Mr. Atul Chandra.
Kundu, Mr. Nishitha Nath.
Maji, Mr. Adwaita Kumar.
Majumdar, Mrs. Hemaprova.
Mandal, Mr. Jogendra Nath.
Maniruzzaman Islamabadi, Maulana Md.
Maqbul Hosain, Mr.
Masker, Mr. Hem Chandra.
Ramizuddin Ahmed, Mr.
Roy, Mr. Charu Chandra.
Roy, Mr. Manmatha Nath.
Sanyal, Mr. Sasanka Sekhar.
Sen, Mr. Atul Chandra.
Shahedali, Mr.
Shamsuddin Ahmed, Mr. M.
Singha, Babu Kshetra Nath.
Zaman, Mr. A. M. A.

NOES—72.

Abdul Aziz, Maulana Md.
Abdul Hafiz, Mr. Mirza.
Abdul Hakim, Maulvi.
Abdul Hamid, Mr. A. M.
Abdul Majid, Mr. Syed.
Abdul Wahab Khan, Mr.
Abdulla-Al Mahmood, Mr.
Abdur Rahman, Khan Bahadur A. F. M.
Abdur Raschid Mahmood, Mr.
Abdur Rasheed, Maulvi Md.
Abdul Motaleb Malik, Dr.
Abdur Rauf, Khan Bahadur Shah.
Abdur Razzak, Maulvi.
Abdus Shaheed, Maulvi Md.
Abul Quasem, Maulvi.
Ahmed Ali Mridha, Maulvi.
Ahmed Hosain, Mr.
Alfazuddin Ahmed, Khan Bahadur Maulvi.
Aminullah, Khan Sahib Maulvi.
Ashrafali, Mr. M.
Aulad Hossain Khan, Khan Bahadur Maulvi.
Azhar Ali, Maulvi.
Birkmyre, Sir Henry, Bart.
Biswas, Mr. Rasik Lal
Chippendale, Mr. J. W.
Das, Rai Sahib Kirit Bhusan.
Edbar, Mr. Upendranath.
Farhad Raza Chowdhury, Mr. M.

Farhat Bano Khanam, Begum.
Fazlul Quadir, Khan Bahadur Maulvi.
Fazlur Rahman, Mr. (Dacca).
Fazlur Rahman, Mr. (Mymensingh).
Gomes, Mr. S. A.
Gyasuddin Ahmed Choudhury, Alhadj.
Hafizuddin Choudhuri, Maulvi.
Hamiduddin Ahmad, Khan Sahib.
Hamilton, Mr. K. A.
Hasina Murshed, Mrs., M.B.E.
Hendry, Mr. David.
Heywood, Mr. Rogers.
Hirtzel, Mr. M. A. F.
Idris Ahmed, Mia, Maulvi.
Jalaluddin Ahmad, Khan Bahadur Maulvi.
Kabiruddin Khan, Khan Bahadur Maulvi.
Mafizuddin Choudhury, Maulvi.
Mandal, Mr. Birat Chandra.
Mandal, Mr. Jagat Chandra.
Maniruddin Akhand, Maulvi.
Mohammed Ali, Khan Bahadur.
Morgan, Mr. G., C.I.E.
Moslem Ali Mollah, Maulvi. M.
Muhammad Afzal, Khan Bahadur Maulvi Syed.
Muhammad Israil, Maulvi.
Muhammad Siddique, Khan Bahadur Dr. Syed.
Mullick, the Hon'ble Mr. Mukunda Behary.
Musharruff Hossain, the Hon'ble Nawab, Khan Bahadur.
Nandy, the Hon'ble Maharaja Srischandra of Cossimbazar.
Nasarullah, Nawabzada K.
Raikut, the Hon'ble Mr. Prasanna Deb.
Roy, Mr. Patiram.
Sadaruddin Ahmed, Mr.
Sarkar, Babu Madhusudan.
Serajul Islam, Mr.
Shahabuddin, Mr. Khwaja, C.B.E.
Sinclair, Mr. J. F.
Sirdar, Babu Litta Munda.
Stark, Mr. A. F.
Suhrawardy, the Hon'ble Mr. H. S.
Tamizuddin Khan, the Hon'ble Mr.
Tofel Ahmed Choudhury, Maulvi Haji.
Wordsworth, Mr. W. C.
Yusuf Ali Choudhury, Mr.

The Ayes being 36 and the Noes 72, the motion was lost.

The motion of Rai Harendra Nath Chaudhuri that the demand of Rs. 36,94,000 for expenditure under the head "28—Jails and Convict Settlements" be reduced by Rs. 100 was then put and lost.

The motion of the Hon'ble Sir Bijoy Prasad Singh Roy that a sum of Rs. 36,94,000 be granted for expenditure under the head "28—Jails and Convict Settlements" was then put and agreed to.

Adjournment.

It being 8-10 p.m.—

The House was adjourned till 4-45 p.m. on Wednesday, the 19th March, 1941, at the Assembly House, Calcutta.

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[(Q.) Stands for question.]

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Abdul Hafiz, Mr. Mirza

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